

Aston Academy

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Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

7 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after half term. I hope families were able to enjoy a little extra time together throughout the week. Since Monday there has been no rest for our Y11 students who have been completing their first set of trial exams in English, Maths, Science, Languages, Humanities and RE/Sociology. We have been delighted with the students' efforts and attendance and are very proud of the resilience they have shown. Our Lead Invigilator commented yesterday that our Y11 students are the best she has ever worked with - a very proud Principal moment. To help prepare our Y11 students for their trial exams our subject specialists and Y11 leaders host an exam briefing. This is a 20-minute briefing that happens before every exam. It allows teachers to pass on last minute instructions, exam tips and subject knowledge, as well as checking that students are supported and any anxieties calmed. Together we will make a difference and during the trials you certainly feel the power of our staff and students working together to achieve the best possible results.

A special mention this week to our very own multiple world champion student - Tyler Killoran. Tyler travelled to Italy to compete at the Unified World Championships in Martial Arts, where he entered eight categories across a range of disciplines — from Traditional Karate and Weapons to Creative and Musical Open Hand & Weapons. Tyler won gold in every single category. He returned home as an 8x World Champion from this competition alone. At just 12 years old, Tyler now holds an incredible 20 World Championship titles. We are incredibly proud of Tyler and the fact that he is representing his family, community and school across the world. I know I say it all the time, but I truly believe that our students can compete against any peer in the country and beyond - that could be academically, student leadership, sport, performance or other qualities such as responsibility, compassion, or ambition. Tyler is leading the way, and I hope that he will inspire many more to follow.

Next week is National Anti-Bullying week. To recognise this, assemblies for Y7-10 this week have involved looking at what bullying is, how we can recognise when it happens, what students should do if they witness this and what to do if they find themselves a victim of bullying. Bullying is a serious issue for all of us; we know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We also know that with the rise of social media, cyberbullying is an increasingly important issue. Where bullying was once confined to the playground, it can now occur online at any time of the day or night.

Bullying can be defined as 'behaviour by an individual or group, repeated overtime that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally' (DfE July 2017). It is important to understand that bullying is not an occasional falling out with friends, although sometimes students will refer to it as bullying when in fact it is a falling out or an isolated incident. Unfortunately, children do sometimes fall out or say things that they should not. When occasional problems of this kind arise, it may not be classed as bullying but will still be taken seriously, investigated and addressed accordingly.

It is an important part of a child's development to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships, but we still know that they will need close support along the way. On 10 November people across the country will be wearing odd socks as a symbol of celebrating individuality and diversity, sending a message that it's okay to be different and encouraging acceptance. We will be joining in with the Odd Socks Campaign by inviting all students and staff to wear odd socks on Monday 10 November. Who will have the most colourful/interesting socks? We can't wait to see what students will wear.



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Below I have included again some very useful email addresses. Our telephone lines can become very busy at certain times of the day. An email often means that your query or information gets to the team much quicker meaning it will be actioned sooner also. Please try to direct correspondence through these channels if a phone call is not necessary at that moment.

Year Teams

- Y7: aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y8: aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y9: aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y10: aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y11: aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Post 16: aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org

Safeguarding

- aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

SEND and Inclusion

- aa-send@astonacademy.org

Attendance

- aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

We will of course be taking a moment to reflect and observe Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11 November, when the school will fall silent for two minutes. The students have been reminded this week why we wear a Poppy and the importance of Remembrance. Students may want to bring some additional change to purchase a Poppy on Monday or Tuesday. We will also be selling other Remembrance items such as snap bands and key rings (from 50p to £2.50). All our donations will be going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Our students may also want to keep a little of the extra change available for next Friday when we will be hosting activities for Children in Need, led by our Post 16 students. Our Post 16 students will be in fancy dress so it will be very clear to see where donations can be given!

I will leave you this week with something I thought could be a great teatime conversation. I have attached a document with today's Friday letter. The document contains Rotherham Labour Market information. This contains really interesting pieces of information that include trends around careers being advertised in the Rotherham area - top employers, starting salaries, key skills employers are seeking etc. Don't forget we have lots more careers advice on our academy website [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend, when it arrives.

The combination of home, school and student will make a difference.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

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