

Aston Academy

Aughton Road, Swallownest

Sheffield S26 4SF

t: 0114 287 2171

e: info@astonacademy.org

w: astonacademy.org

Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of an important decision regarding the future of the Post-16 provision at Aston Academy. Due to declining numbers of students opting to stay on for Post-16 study over the last few years, Aston Post-16 has become increasingly financially unviable. This does reflect a national trend, and Aston has experienced increasing levels of competition from other providers of Post-16 education within the local area. Consequently, the academy has had to redirect a significant amount of funding from students in Key Stage 3 & 4, alongside ongoing investment from ACET, to keep the Post-16 provision open.

Despite leaders' best efforts to increase student numbers, such ventures have proved unsuccessful and the financial forecast for the provision is untenable moving forward. In addition to this, Trustees are committed to ensuring students have access to a broad and enriching curriculum offer at Post-16, which is not something ACET can sustainably offer at Aston with a small cohort of students. Enrolments into Y12 in September 2025 were significantly lower than anticipated and leaders and Trustees do not believe it is equitable to continue to compromise the education of younger students, or other students across the Trust through significant redirection of funding. Consequently, ACET's Board of Trustees has made the difficult decision to proceed with a public consultation for a planned phased closure of the provision.

Outlined below is the proposed, planned phased closure:

- In September 2026, Post-16 will remain open to Y13, with students being able to access the same curriculum offer as they have in Y12. Current Y12 students' studies will not be affected.
- From September 2026, the provision will only open to Y13 (current Y12 students) – there will not be a new Y12 cohort.
- From September 2027, the provision will be permanently closed.

We are seeking parent/carers views as part of a consultation which will close on Tuesday 9th December 2025; should you have any comments or suggestions related to the proposed phased closure, please share these with us at the following email address: contactus@astoncetrust.org

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Wider stakeholders are also being informed of the proposed plans for closure and will be invited to share their views. The response from the public consultation will then be considered by the DfE who will determine the outcome through a statutory process. I will communicate further with you in the spring term, once a decision has been made by the DfE.

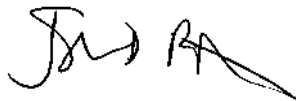
The planned Post-16 Open Evening will run in parallel with the Y11 Consultation Evening on Monday 8th December. As usual, this important event will provide opportunity for you and your child to meet with teachers and discuss your child's progress and next steps in each subject. In addition, this event will also provide an opportunity for you and your child to find out more about the Post-16 curriculum and the range of support available at Aston Academy, should the outcome of the consultation and DfE decision be that the Post-16 provision remain open for a Y12 cohort in 2026/27. Please be assured we have a comprehensive programme in place to ensure that all students and their parents/carers have the information and support required to make well-informed decisions about their next steps in education or training.

POST-16 CLOSURE CONSULTATION: You can also respond [here](#) by Tuesday 9th December 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Scutt
ACET CEO



John Barton
Chair of Trust

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