

Aston Academy

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14 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another Friday arrives. My standout moment of the week was our perfectly observed two minutes silence on Tuesday to mark Remembrance Day. A busy, bustling school fell silent for two minutes apart from the sound of lone Y9 student Ralph Best sounding The Last Post. If you are familiar with the school layout, Ralph played The Last Post on our Head Yard, at the front of school. Staff reported that it could be heard across the front block, through new block and all the way to the netball courts at the rear of the school. A very fitting tribute and an opportunity to teach our students the meaning behind Remembrance and the things we must be grateful for. The day ended with our student leaders holding a Remembrance service for staff in Hall 2. This included poems, stories and video clips - all prepared and presented by the students. We really do have the most talented young people in our school! A very proud Principal moment.

A huge well done and congratulations to our amazing Physical Education faculty. They are extremely pleased to announce that for the second year running, Aston Academy has been revealed as a Centre of Excellence by the Leadership Skills Foundation. The Centre of Excellence title is presented to organisations that demonstrate a deeply held commitment to developing essential leadership skills in their learners to help them prepare for work and for life. To be considered, centres must adhere to a comprehensive list of criteria, including: a commitment to effective leadership practices, fostering a positive school culture and maintaining high standards of learner performance. With only 37 centres selected for the 2025-26 academic year from the 2,500 plus that the Leadership Skills Foundation works with annually, the accomplishment is testament to the work and commitment of our young leaders.

Leadership skills are such a great thing for our young people to learn, and it certainly will support them in the world of work or future successes. As an academy we realise that these skills, such as leadership and resilience must be taught, valued and nurtured along with the academic expectations of a school. A great way to develop leadership and that important sense of belonging is through clubs. A reminder [here](#) of the amazing free extra-curricular clubs that staff put on throughout the week. These are a great way for students to build confidence, promote well-being and foster the leadership skills I have mentioned. Please encourage your child to come along and have a go, they will be more than welcome. No booking necessary.

I would also like to use my Friday letter to thank all our parents/carers for their considerable patience and understanding regarding ongoing issues with our payment systems for school meals/food. I can assure you we are very aware of how frustrating this must be to you. I am reassured that the companies responsible for the payment technology are working hard to rectify the issues. I must stress that the teams within the academy are working tirelessly to ensure that break and lunch routines run smoothly for our students and I thank them for that.

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Today I have the pleasure of welcoming Jake Richards MP into the academy. I am greatly looking forward to sharing academy news with him and discussing further the points raised in our Monday correspondence around Post 16 provision. Mr Richards MP visited the academy last academic year, and it is always reassuring to know that we have close links between education and government. We have worked hard as a school to build opportunities for close work and collaborations with our local MPs and councillors to ensure that our students and staff receive the best provisions possible to be successful.

In my letter next week, I hope to bring you exciting news about the outcome of our resilience award we have been working towards - watch this space!

Have a wonderful weekend, when it arrives.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graham', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Graham
Principal

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