

Aston Academy

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Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

16 January 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Happy Friday. The close to another busy academic week for our students and staff. Thank you for your support last Friday during the snowy weather. I was delighted that our attendance remained strong and students coped extremely well with the cold and icy outdoor conditions around the school site. I appreciate how challenging it may have been to ensure your child could get to school safely. I would also like to thank our amazing site team who worked from early morning to ensure that the site was safe for staff, students and visitors. A real team effort between home, school and students.

You may remember that last academic year we began our partnership with Easyfundrasing. Easyfundrasing is a company that partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of our choice. It won't cost you any extra when you purchase, the cost is covered by the brand. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and Easyfundrasing turn that into a donation. I have made a commitment that all money raised will go directly into student rewards. So far, we have raised over £550.

If you have not already signed up, please click [here](#); it is easy to use and will allow our students to have some well-earned extra treats.

It is important that our students turn up each school day ready to learn, this will include bringing a suitable school bag (able to safely hold equipment, books needed for that day), full school uniform and stationery so they can access every lesson fully. When students enter school each day from 8.10am our pastoral teams are there to welcome students as they come through the gates, they say good morning, check uniform (including asking students to remove any non-policy jewellery) and ensure that the child is ready for the day ahead.

From 8.10 – 8.30am each morning we have a uniform and stationery shop open that will lend uniform and sell black pens, pencils, ruler, white board pens. All stationery items are 10p. The charge will be taken from your parent pay account. I would hope that £2 is more than enough to cover an academic year for lost or forgotten equipment items (that is 20 items).

To ensure your child is able to access the stationery shop and be fully equipped each day please can you deposit £2 into the parent pay account titled – 'stationery equipment'.

Following our successful event last year, we invited all the University of Sheffield trainee Science teachers to Aston for the day last Thursday. They spent the morning having a masterclass in delivering science lessons, observing Science lessons taught by Aston teachers, and preparing a rocket designing activity. In the afternoon we were joined by Y5 students from three local primary schools who were put into groups and the ITT students guided them through designing and testing rockets, before a very exciting final competition. It is wonderful that Aston Academy is chosen to support these trainee teachers and hopefully a sign that what we are doing within the classroom is worth sharing as good practice.

Well done to our fantastic Science team for organising and leading this event.

Safeguarding is the duty of every adult within the school and therefore we ensure we have robust methods of testing our safeguarding systems and students' knowledge of how to keep themselves and others safe. For example, in December and January so far, we have invited and welcomed four separate monitoring visits around safeguarding. This has included a visit from a group containing colleagues from Rotherham local authority, the police and early help to inspect all things safeguarding.



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Later in December we then worked with the local authority who reviewed our safeguarding measures around students how use taxis to travel to and from the academy. Finally, this month we have welcomed two trust visits to speak to and question our safeguarding leads, staff and students around our safeguarding routines as well as checking our record keeping and engagement with external help for our students. These visits take a tremendous amount of time and work, but I believe that regular and robust reviews of our safeguarding systems and routines are essential in keeping children safe.

Our safeguarding practice also includes seeking regular and timely education for our students around how to keep themselves and their friends safe. For example, in tutor time this week we have reminded students to be aware of "Stranger Danger", particularly when so many walk to and from school. This included how to remain safe and what to do if they are worried about an adult when walking to and from school.

Today our Y7, Y8 and Y9 students will have the opportunity to attend extra assemblies led by our local police officers. Topics and themes of the assemblies will include '*knives take lives*', '*child criminal exploitation*' and '*Your Life Your Choice*' which is a talk to educate young people about the serious consequences of crime and support positive life choices. Academic success is vital to what we do each day at the academy but equally important is the work we do daily with the students around Personal, Social, Health, Economic education. Extra events with guest speakers such as today compliment the outstanding work we already do with tutor time and Personal Development education.

I speak frequently in my Friday update about the importance of timely and effective communications between home and school. I have included again some useful email addresses that mean you have a closer link, especially useful during times when phone lines are busy. I hope that this helps, please make a note of them.

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

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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