

## Aston Academy

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Striving for **Excellence**  
**Empowering** Achievement  
Shaping **Learning**

**Principal:** James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

**CEO:** Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

23 January 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Happy Friday.

Another busy school week draws to a close. January is often called the 'bleakest' month of the year. I prefer to focus on the opportunities for a fresh start. You might have heard of 'Blue Monday,' often referred to as the most depressing day of the year. Interestingly, 'blue Monday' was this very week, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Data suggests our positive new year resolutions last for approximately 18 days. Therefore, it is even more important to encourage students to be committed, stay motivated and stick to routines.

Next week it will be important that both home and school continue to encourage our students/children to embed and stick to these positive routines and habits. We are certainly seeing them displayed more frequently by all our students I believe routines and habits take the uncertainty away from school. Students knowing what to expect in lessons, our morning, break and lunch routines and the routines of staff. By providing consistent routines we hopefully remove the barrier of children worrying about the unexpected. This in turn leads to a much better feeling of belonging amongst our students which in turn equips them to achieve and thrive.

This week it was lovely to welcome so many of our Y11 parent and carers into the academy to take part in our English, Maths and Science secrets to success evening. The idea was to provide parents with more knowledge on what students are learning, exam tips and how students can prepare for exams in these core subjects. As well as talks from the heads of these core faculties we provided revision packs to take home. The evening really focused on the academic support offered at the academy, but equally significant is the personal development we offer our students. With this in mind, an event that I am very excited to see is our planned Y11 mock career interviews taking place next week. We will be welcoming 14 business leaders into the academy to meet 1-1 with our Y11 students for a 15-minute mock interview. A fantastic opportunity for our students to speak to an adult about employability while practicing those interview skills that we all eventually use. I am sure they will be nervous, but I hope it fills them with confidence that if they equip themselves with the academic achievements along with the social and employability skills, they have a very bright future ahead.

The mock interview day is only a very small part of the wider personal development and PSHE support we offer all our students. If you would like to read more around the provision and what your child can expect in future years, then please take a look at the link below that will take you to the section within our school website.

[Aston Academy Careers Information](#)

Please keep your eyes open for future correspondence this term around our Apprenticeship week which will take place on week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. We hope that sessions such as the above, as well as our work experience in Y8, Y10 and Y12, along with the 1-1 careers support we will provide every KS4 student, we ensure our students are fully equipped to tackle working life and compete for the best positions and dream careers against any peer in the country.

On Sunday we are planning our biggest rewards trip yet at Aston Academy. We are taking over 250 of our students to see Sheffield Steelers vs Cardiff Devils at the Arena in Sheffield. This is a rewards trip for our under 16 students who have particularly excelled in achievement points across the first term. We are delighted to take so many of our students (almost 20% of the KS3/4 cohort). If your child wasn't selected this time, please be reassured that we are striving to find more ways to reward our students so encourage them to keep going and always strive for the best attendance and effort possible. For reward activities such as the above to happen it relies on staff being willing to give up a Sunday evening to supervise our students. Staff do not receive any extra payment for this service; it is purely down to volunteering. It is therefore a wonderful reflection of our staff body that 25+ Aston Academy staff have volunteered. A huge thank you from me and another very proud principal moment!

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I am aware that I have sent the below out a number of times in my Friday update and I speak frequently 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. Our phones do get incredible busy during the day. Answering all calls can be particularly challenging as our reception staff will also be welcoming or signing out visitors, parent/carers and other professionals into/out of the academy when they visit for meetings or events. I hope the email addresses help, please make a note of them and attempt to use to support with quicker and more efficient communications.

#### 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 (*please be reassured that this email address is closely monitored throughout the school day*)

aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

#### SEND and Inclusion

aa-send@astonacademy.org

#### Attendance

aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

Next week I look forward to meeting our post 16 parents and carers for consultation evening on Monday. Our staff are offering so much support for our Y13 students in preparation for summer exams so please make sure you have booked appointments if you are a Post 16 parent. Have a wonderful weekend.

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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