

Aston Academy

Aughton Road, Swallownest

Sheffield S26 4SF

t: 0114 287 2171

e: info@astonacademy.org

w: astonacademy.org



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

30 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

We are very grateful to our Head of History and 7A form tutor, Ms Kirk, for leading today's assembly linked to Holocaust Memorial. To see our fantastic Year 7 listen with such attentiveness and compassion was a really special moment in another busy week.

Equipment and Mastery Booklets

Following last week's reminder, we have seen a real sharpening of routines around having basic equipment and mastery booklets out on desks, ready for learning, at the start of every lesson. The opening moments of a lesson are crucial in setting the right calm, focused and purposeful tone - so excellent habits and routines really do make a difference. If you have passed this reminder on to your child - thank you! As Mr Graham says every week, the partnership of home and school is incredibly powerful.

A short survey to help us measure the impact of Y7 mastery booklets and refine them for the coming terms can be filled in here: <https://forms.office.com/e/r6ESwaBmEJ>

Extra-Curricular Clubs and activities

It is always great to see so many Y7 pupils leaving site absolutely buzzing and occasionally looking exhausted after post-school training, a match or a club activity. We warmly encourage pupils to attend as many extracurricular opportunities as possible in Y7. Pupils are still so young - interests are not yet fixed, and clubs offer a great chance to socialise with pupils who might be outside of their immediate friendship group. Our staff are always willing to give of their time to foster that sense of true belonging among pupils. I am yet to win a chess match against our resident Y7 and Y8 Grand Masters!

Sheffield Steelers Trip

We had a fantastic time with pupils from all year groups last Sunday on our trip to see Sheffield Steelers roar to victory against Cardiff. Friends who work in other schools often seem taken aback when I say we are happy to take trips of 200+ pupils out and about, representing Aston Academy. As I keep reminding Year 7, maintaining our reputation for lovely manners and good conduct means that places are happy to invite us back - and seeing our pupils beyond the school gates behaving with kindness and consideration for others is the best advertisement for what our school is about. I am always proud to boast to anyone who asks that I am an Aston Academy teacher.

Presentation Matters!

The majority of lessons at Aston Academy contain some modelling of the written work and we ask that teachers strive to model the highest standards of presentation to pupils. We also ask that pupils strive to present their work as neatly, legibly and accurately as possible. Sometimes the pace of writing will be quick in order to jot down key learning, at other times more time will be given and pupils reminded to slow down and practise their best handwriting. As someone who was often pulled up in school for having exercise books that were less than exemplary, I am keen to remind pupils who struggle with handwriting or presentation of their work that it is not the most important thing - but it does matter, and everyone can try their best to present work beautifully. We encourage you to take an interest in your child's written work - praise them where they have tried their hardest and challenge them if you know they are capable of a better standard. Parent/carer interest in schoolwork is a key driver of pupil progress.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales