

Aston Academy

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

13 February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

Despite some bleak weather conditions, 2026 has been very successful so far for our fantastic Y7 pupils. We took time to reflect on some of these successes this week with rewards activities and assembly. As always, huge thanks on behalf of the pupils to Miss Carroll and Ms Layden for their organisation of these events.

The first half term of a new calendar year can feel like a challenge with post-Christmas slump and New Year's resolutions looking shaky - especially in those dark winter mornings. Nationally, it is when many schools see their attendance drop. We are so pleased and proud to be bucking this national trend with amazing attendance and resilience in Y7. Even in this last week of the half term, we had some days at over 97% - and we thank all families for your commitment to getting your child to school each day: punctual, equipped and ready to learn.

Mastery Booklets and home learning

We would like to thank parents and carers for your support so far in encouraging the completion of Mastery Booklets. We hope you find it helpful to see what your child is learning across their subjects. Mastery Booklets are designed to help students build strong understanding and subject vocabulary, with each booklet containing self-quizzing activities that reinforce classroom teaching. The quizzes support memory, highlight gaps in understanding, and help students grow into confident, independent learners, while also developing organisation, responsibility, and preparation for future study. Establishing good learning habits now will pay off not only in examinations but well into adulthood - we often find ourselves saying to Y7 pupils: *"Your future self will thank you!"*

After the half-term break, booklets will be checked during tutor time on Mondays, with positive points awarded for completion and a negative point logged on Class Charts for incomplete work, so that parents can also monitor progress. If work remains incomplete on Tuesday, a next-day lunchtime detention will be set. Additional help is available for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–4pm in G Block, students can 'drop in' to these sessions if they require extra support in keeping their mastery booklets up to date. We kindly ask for your continued support in encouraging regular completion at home.

Theatre Trip - Save the Date

We are in the process of booking an end of term theatre trip and it would be fantastic to see as many of our wonderful Y7 enjoy this experience together. We will confirm details very soon - it will very likely take place during week commencing Monday 13th July, on either the Wednesday or Thursday evening. Details to follow - and as always, your prompt response is appreciated.

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Spring is coming!

The half term break offers us a great opportunity to refresh and reassert our ever-higher standards. Year 7 will be very used to us telling them that they are very much 'the blueprint for how things are done at Aston.' Keeping the standards high around seemingly little things like uniform infringement, expecting excellent behaviour at line-ups/between lessons and insisting that every child arrives punctually and equipped have helped us to provide disruption free learning and build a real sense of belonging. You only have to see our year group in the assembly hall to know that they are part of something really special: a year group who support one another to be the best that they can be.

A few reminders:

- false nails are not allowed in school. If these are done over the half term break, they must be removed in good time for the return to school on Monday 23rd February. Pupils have also been reminded of this rule.
- Y7 should be placing their equipment on the template in their mastery booklet on their desk at the start of each lesson. This ensures that everything they need for the lesson is to hand. The half term break is a good chance to clear out your child's school bag with them and ensure they are stocked up with everything they need.
- Plain black leather school shoes need to be worn every day.
- Jewellery should not be worn and will be confiscated. We may ask parents/carers to attend and collect these items - especially if a pupil is in persistent defiance of this rule.
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We'd like to wish all of our Y7 pupils a lovely half term break. They were reminded in assembly today to stay safe, get some fresh air, do some reading and most importantly spend some time with loved ones

Yours faithfully,



Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal