

## Aston Academy

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

6 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

It has been fantastic to welcome the Year 7 back these last two weeks - they have even managed to bring some beautiful Spring sunshine - at least on some of the days!

### A Year Group to be Proud Of

Last week we missed Ms Layden for a few days, and Year 7 decided to send a huge card with well over 200 signatures and lovely messages wishing for her speedy return. It really brightened her week. Special thanks to **Harry D** who took over managing this task - getting everyone organised and lined up ready to write their messages. A future leader, right there!

### Careers Assembly

Year 7 listened attentively today to a short presentation about career pathways and choices. Our key message was that nothing is carved in stone - that career paths are seldom straight paths - and that the children at the ages of eleven and twelve have limitless potential and opportunities ahead of them. We talked about qualifications being an important part of the picture - but also about employable habits of excellence: punctuality, organisation, communication skills - and how they are building these habits and qualities every day.

### World Book Day and the importance of Reading

Special thanks to our humanities and maths staff for their spectacular World Book Day outfits and to everyone who took the time this week to talk about their favourite book and what they are currently reading. Drier weather sees the return of our Y7 Bookswap - so please encourage your child to Read, Rate, Return or pass on to a friend or family member. Thank you also for the very kind donations of pre-loved books - we can always find a good home for them!

### Line-Ups and Standards

The Year 7 team meet several times over the course of the week to review how the pupils are getting on - in lessons, between lessons, completing homework: we want them to be the best and will leave nothing to chance in terms of them moving into Year 8 as fantastic as they were on Day 1 of September. This week we noticed some inconsistency in line-ups - a small number of children arriving later than their peers, not standing as attentively in SMART position as we would like and needing reminders that line-up is a couple of minutes of silent self-regulation. While the vast majority get it absolutely right every single time, we want to make sure that the line-ups first thing each morning, at the end of break and at the end of lunch are as polished and purposeful as it can possibly be: it really does set the right tone for the coming lessons. We would appreciate your input in reminding all pupils that these standards are important - that way they hear the same consistent message from home and school.

### Attendance milestone reached

We are enormously proud of the strides we have made in terms of ensuring pupils attend every day - putting us above the national and regional averages for attendance. This gives a little snapshot of how our children feel - safe, looked after and with a real sense that they belong in school. Our recent student voice interviews in Year 7 back this up - this is so important at the moment as Year 7 play a huge part in ensuring that next year's Y7 cohort feel valued, welcomed and happy to start with us in September.

Yours faithfully,

**Mike Kilgannon**  
Assistant Vice Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

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