

## Aston Academy

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

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

13 March 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Another Friday arrives, and it's hard to believe we are already just two weeks away from the end of Term Two, the time has truly flown. Over the next fortnight, we have a whole range of wonderful opportunities taking place. Our brilliant Showcase is running on the 24th and 25th of April (more on this later), we're celebrating student progress, effort and achievement during our reward weeks, Y8 and Y9 will complete their NGRTs, and Y13 will be taking part in their trial examinations.

The Easter holidays themselves will also bring important opportunities. School will be open for GCSE revision sessions, and we encourage Y11 parents/carers to look out for timetables and details coming soon. We also want to wish our staff and students travelling to Italy on the ski trip the very best. I am sure they will create memories they'll carry with them for years to come. A huge thank you goes to the staff who have worked incredibly hard to make this opportunity possible.

One of the most meaningful opportunities we offer at the Academy is the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. I am extremely proud that our staff support students through both the Bronze and Silver Award. DofE is such a powerful way for young people to build independence, resilience, confidence and teamwork — all while contributing positively to their community.

This Tuesday, we had the pleasure of celebrating 25 Y10 students who achieved their Bronze Award. It was a lovely evening, made even more special by the families who came to share in that proud moment. This year, our students have volunteered in a wide variety of ways — from litter-picking in the local area to raising money for Cambodian education charities. Their skills work has included everything from brass band to baking, and their physical challenges have ranged from cheerleading to national-level swimming. We could not be prouder. DofE at Aston continues to grow, with 50 students enrolled this year, and we are very excited to see what they achieve next. Well, done to everyone involved!

Last week I shared some of the exciting Science Week opportunities taking place. This week, students have been exploring the theme of *Curiosity*. Curiosity is such an important part of learning — it helps young people ask questions, explore ideas more deeply and develop confidence in their own thinking. Below is a great link that you might enjoy as a family. It's full of conversation-sparkers and activities that are perfect for encouraging inquisitive minds at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWxZBtZEMeZCnxi6WJSojlpYcgx0G8kT0>

Another highlight of our school year is the Aston Academy Showcase — a heartwarming celebration of dance, drama and music. Students have been working incredibly hard and cannot wait to share their talent with an audience. This year's theme is "*A Trip Around the World.*" The show takes place on the 24th and 25th of March at 6pm, and tickets are available through School Gateway. What I love most about our Showcase is that it celebrates every performer — from those stepping onto the stage for the first time to those who have been developing their craft for years. It is truly an event that builds pride, confidence and community.

As we approach the final stretch before Easter, it's a good moment to check that students have everything they need — both uniform and equipment — so that Term 3 begins smoothly. We believe that uniform fosters a sense of belonging, pride and shared purpose. It helps our students feel part of something bigger and signals that they are ready to learn and ready to embody our core values.



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We ask that all students wear the full uniform every day (*unless adaptations have been agreed*), and we appreciate your continued support in helping them do so. Our uniform shop is open every morning for the occasional one-off emergency loan, but it shouldn't be relied on regularly. Please ensure students return in blazer and tie, that footwear meets expectations and trainers are not worn (unless a medical adjustment has been agreed), and that jewellery is limited to one pair of stud earrings only — no facial piercings.

Below are some useful email addresses, I have shared these before. At busy times our phone lines can be challenging to get through on, and email often allows us to respond more quickly and efficiently. If a phone call isn't essential, please consider using these channels:

Year Teams –

Year 7: [aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Year 8: [aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Year 9: [aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Year 10: [aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Year 11: [aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Post 16: [aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org)

Safeguarding

[aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org)

SEND and Inclusion

[aa-send@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-send@astonacademy.org)

Attendance

[aa-attendance@astonacademy.org](mailto:aa-attendance@astonacademy.org)

I'll leave you this week with a lovely reminder of the power of curiosity, shared by Albert Einstein:  
"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."

Have a wonderful weekend.

The combination of home, school and student will make a difference.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham  
Principal

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