

Aston Academy

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Dear parent/carer,

This week the sun finally came out, the mornings and evenings became brighter, and it was wonderful to see many more of our children outside at break and lunchtimes enjoying the fresh air, sports, and each other's company. It certainly supports wellbeing and reflects the qualities of Spring. My science colleagues will remind me that Spring boosts wellbeing by increasing sunlight exposure, which raises serotonin levels, enhances mood, and improves sleep patterns. Longer, warmer days encourage more physical activity, social interaction, and reconnection with nature, reducing stress and increasing motivation.

This increased thirst for physical activity that Spring encourages will serve our sports teams well this weekend. We are extremely proud and excited that our Y7 and Y8 Netball teams have qualified for the Rotherham Netball Finals, taking place at Wickersley School on Saturday. Matches begin at 9am, and I am sure our teams would appreciate your support if you are available. It is a wonderful morning showcasing the best school netball teams in the authority. I hope our Netball teams will be inspired by our Y9 football team who, last Saturday, won the Y9 Rotherham Football Plate Final 5–3 against a very good Clifton School side. Thank you to the coach, Mr Sutcliffe, and well done to our amazing Y9 football team. Our quest for sporting success continued this week when Mr Hall took our athletics teams to the South Yorkshire Indoor Athletics Finals. Our girls' team secured third place in South Yorkshire, and the boys came 6th in South Yorkshire. A very proud moment!

Sport is another way in which we provide opportunities for our students, and the sense of team spirit definitely builds belonging within our sports clubs. It is fantastic that we are competing at a South Yorkshire level—representing our school, families, and community. I place great value on the importance of our sports teams being competitive and taking part in finals across Rotherham, Yorkshire, and beyond. I want our community to be proud of our teams and our students to feel inspired that Aston Academy can compete against any other schools. Sport can teach us many positive values, but pride, belonging, and togetherness are perhaps the strongest and most valuable for a school community. Good luck to all the teams taking part on Saturday.

Another reminder about the Aston Academy Showcase — a heart-warming celebration of dance, drama, and music. Students have been working incredibly hard and cannot wait to share their talents 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. It would be lovely to see you and your family there to celebrate and support our student performers.

This is also a good time to thank the parents and carers of our sports teams, showcase performers, and all other clubs and groups. Without a parent/carer taxi service, kit washing, costume designers, or bag-packers, we simply would not have such happy and skilful performers at our clubs. On behalf of our extra-curricular staff, a huge thank you for your support.



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This week our pastoral teams have been excitedly preparing for the Easter student reward celebrations, which will take place next week. We have lots of prizes, certificates, and a few surprises for our students (including far too many Easter eggs!). Even I'm excited to see what Mr Staniland's Y10 "Chippy Tutor Award" is all about. Students and staff have had a very successful term and should be proud. Next week allows us to shine a spotlight on the work, effort, and progress that takes place every day. Therefore, can I make a special plea to ensure that attendance remains strong throughout the week, as we really do not want any of our students to miss a reward or special surprise. Thank you for your continued support with attendance throughout the term.

On behalf of all Aston Academy staff, we wish all our families a joyful and blessed Eid al-Fitr if you are celebrating. Eid al-Fitr is a Muslim celebration marking the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection. It is a time when many of our families come together to give thanks, share meals, and exchange well-wishes. We hope this special occasion brings peace, happiness, and togetherness to your homes.

Eid Mubarak to everyone marking the end of Ramadan.

Finally, from me — at this busy time of year for school sport and performances, we are reminded how much our school community thrives on teamwork and shared support. During his 2026 Oscars acceptance speech this week, actor Michael B. Jordan expressed a sentiment that resonates beautifully with the way we work together:

"I stand here because of the people that came before me."

His words capture an essential truth — none of us achieve alone. Every child's progress is shaped by the encouragement they receive at home, the dedication of their teachers, and the strength of the community around them. Your involvement, positivity, and partnership make a meaningful difference every day.

Thank you for all you do to support not only your own child, but the wider school family.

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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