

Aston Academy

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

20 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

Many thanks to Ms Carroll and Ms Layden for steering the ship while I was working off-site earlier this week. It made us all laugh when I returned on Thursday morning to a very stern word about my attendance from one of our Year 7 pupils. It felt great to be back on the gate being greeted with lovely manners, great humour and typical warmth. Very much the Aston Academy way.

Theatre trip -July

We are very excited to have another Big Y7 Theatre Trip booked into the calendar - save the date! Y7 pupils will have the opportunity to join us at the Crucible Theatre to see Sheffield Theatre's new adaptation of the musical Summer Holiday on **Wednesday 15th July**. A letter will follow next week with details of how to secure your child's place on the trip. As always, your prompt response and payment is appreciated. We feel sure it will be a great night of theatre and that the feel-good summer show will be very much in keeping with a positive end to the school year. I can't resist the opportunity to share with you again some feedback from one of our December trips about Aston Academy students:

"I am sorry to say that one's heart all too frequently sinks when one realises that 'there's a school party in'. But this is just prejudice. The students from Aston were polite and well mannered. They cleared up after themselves. They were considerate of others. Their engagement in question and answers was thoughtful and empathetic. It was great to see some of them getting their first experience of theatre in such a positive way. They are delightful young people. I must also congratulate the staff who were giving up their own time with grace and warmth. I would love any child of mine to have such care in their lives."

Equipment and Preparedness for Learning

It is heartening to see that when we issue a reminder it has an immediate impact - many thanks for echoing our key messages with your children. As Mr Graham always says - the partnership between pupil, home and school makes such a massive difference. An example of this: a few weeks ago, we noticed that a small number of Y7 pupils were arriving to school without their equipment packs or were forgetting to put them out on desks ready at the start of each lesson. Following a reminder at line up, and reminders from parents/carers this situation has quickly improved. Basic equipment replacements can be bought at the uniform/equipment store at the front of school each morning - and the Easter break offers a good opportunity to stock up on missing bits if pupils enjoy choosing their own pens/pencils etc. Being ready at the start of every lesson helps us all to achieve our goal of disruption free learning.

Attendance and the last week of Spring Term

We are very proud that Y7 attendance continues to be so impressive and that such great numbers of pupils pass by us on the gate each morning - smiling, greeting staff and ready for the day ahead. Ms Carroll has been working hard to secure lots of praise and reward opportunities for the final week of this term, and of course in such a short half term that has gone by so quickly there is still so much to cover in lessons. It really is vital that pupils attend each day and push for full attendance right up to their well-earned Easter break.

Eid Mubarak

The end of this week also brings Ramadan to a close and marks the celebration of Eid Al-Fitr. Very best wishes to all members of our school community who are celebrating - have a wonderful time.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

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