

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

With your commitment, we will make a difference
March 2026



Term Two Progress...

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, rewarding, and purposeful Term 2 at Aston Academy. Our students have taken full advantage of the many opportunities available to them, supported each day by the dedication and commitment of our excellent staff. This term has been rich in learning, enrichment, and significant progress across the school.

I am grateful for the continued support shown by our parents and carers. Together—staff, students, and families—we are building a community where every child can achieve, belong, and thrive. This shared commitment to working collaboratively remains one of our greatest strengths.

A strong culture of belonging underpins all that we do. Our consistent routines—from morning greetings to clear classroom expectations—help students feel safe, settled, and ready to learn. Attendance has remained strong, and we appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring students arrive prepared and equipped each day. I am extremely proud of the progress made this term and of the strong foundations that continue to grow.

This term we expanded our support for students and families through enhanced mental health provision, increased access to reading and intervention programmes, strengthened routines (particularly in Years 7 and 8), thriving sports clubs, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities including clubs, trips, rewards, and daily activities. These developments ensure more students feel known, supported, and confident in school.

Highlights have included World Book Day and Reading Week, National Careers Week with its successful mock interview day, and Cambridge University offers for two of our Year 13 students. STEM activities, sporting successes at Rotherham, South Yorkshire and national levels, and two outstanding Showcase evenings have also contributed to a vibrant and memorable term.

These accomplishments reflect our collective ambition to help every student flourish.



Some Term 2 Proud Moments...

We have had much to be proud of this term. Our students continue to receive excellent feedback from members of the public during trips, activities, and residential, and we are equally proud of the impressive skills, hobbies, and achievements they demonstrate both in and out of school—regularly celebrated through our weekly Facebook updates.

Compared with the same period last year, we have seen positive improvements across several areas. Attendance remains above national figures, and a wider range of students are now receiving rewards. We have expanded opportunities through both school-based and external activities, and our personal development curriculum now welcomes more visitors into the academy. Reading interventions have increased, and support for students who need additional help has strengthened further, particularly through our SEND provision. We have also taken steps to improve communication and feedback, including through our Parent Forum.

I would like to thank you—our parents and carers—for your continued support throughout Term 2. I am also deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, who not only deliver high-quality lessons but also give significant time to trips, revision sessions, clubs, and rewards. Our wider teams, including site, finance, IT, exams, admin, inclusion, attendance, careers, and safeguarding, all play a vital role in ensuring the best possible provision for every child. We know there is more to achieve, and we look forward to continuing this positive journey together.

Have a wonderful Easter break. Thank you for your support it is greatly appreciated by myself and all staff at Aston Academy.

During the holidays, if you have a concern that is of a serious nature, which may have serious consequences, please email aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org.

The Work Continues..

We are always looking for ways to further improve our provision and our recent parent forum gave us a valuable opportunity to discuss developments with parents and carers.

- We recognise the need to continue improving our communications, especially the short day-to-day messages going in and out of the academy.
- We will keep staying up to date with — and ahead of — any potential barriers our students may face, including emerging national issues or new unsafe trends such as the recent red/blue situation.
- We remain committed to responding quickly and appropriately to any changes in circumstances or challenges affecting individual children.
- It's important to us that we continue building strong partnerships with our community and wider network, ensuring the best opportunities for our students and the school.
- Thank you for your patience this term as we addressed various issues, such as the difficulties with lunch money accounts — your understanding has been greatly appreciated.
- Together — home, school and students — we will make a meaningful difference.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO THRIVE

For students to thrive, they must feel known, safe, and part of our school community. A strong sense of belonging for both students and staff supports shared goals and improves achievement. Every decision we make focuses on giving students opportunities and a platform for success.

This includes extra-curricular activities, timely rewards, celebrations in assemblies and online, the vital work of group tutors, strong attendance, clear routines, robust safeguarding, daily pastoral support, and curriculum pathways that meet every learner's needs. Below are just a few examples of the many opportunities we provide to help our students grow and succeed.

<https://www.facebook.com/astonacademy.ACET>

SOUTH YORKSHIRE INDOOR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pupils in Y7 and Y8 represented Rotherham at the South Yorkshire Indoor Athletic championships this afternoon. Y8 boys finished 6th out of a very tough group and the Y7 girls finished 3rd. Congratulations to all pupils who took part.



CROWDEN RESIDENTIAL TRIP!

The group at Crowden Outdoor Education Centre have continued to have excellent adventures. Yesterday, they went walking in the hills and even took a dip in a stream which, we have been told, was ever so slightly cold.



Y10 REWARDS!

An Easter reward for Year 10 students who received a bag of chocolates for 100% attendance and a Cadbury's Creme Egg for students with zero behaviour logs. In some cases a double yolk! Well done to all reward winners with 120 students receiving a reward.

Golden Eggs! Three of our Year 10 students out of the 28 prize winners who were nominated by each faculty to receive a certificate and an Easter Egg! Keep up the good work.



MATHS DISNEYLAND PARIS TRIP



ROTHERHAM PLATE WINNERS Y9

Aston Y9's have won the Rotherham Plate having beaten Clifton 5-3 in an end to end game. Goals from Kian Knight (3), Oscar Cookson and a 40 yard free kick from Ollie Kippax. Brilliant today lads!





NETBALL NEWS

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams who played in the Rotherham School Finals Day this morning. All of our girls represented our school wonderfully giving it their all. Year 7 remaining undefeated winning both of their games today to become Rotherham Champions. Well done to all, we are so proud of you.



WORLD BOOK DAY!

World Book Day 2026 Maths department understand the assignment! And we had lots of World Book Day Winners!



WELL DONE SOPHIE & CHARLEY!

Congratulations to our Year 13 students Sophie and Charley who have received offers to study English and History at the University of Cambridge. Only around 1 in 4 applicants receive offers so we are very proud of their achievement!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We were pleased to welcome around 100 parents, carers and students to the DoE launch event for 2026 at Aston Academy yesterday! It was amazing to hear their ideas for volunteering, skills, and physical sections and early excitement for the expedition! Students with any questions should find Mr Rubbo (general DoE enquiries, usually in his office on main corridor), Miss Cadman (Y9- bronze DoE- maths department) or Miss Murray (Y10- silver DoE- Humanities).



SHOWCASE

A Trip Around the World

Tuesday 24 March & Wednesday 25 March
Doors open at 5.30pm | Showtime 6.00pm

AVAILABLE NOW



CAREERS!

This week we welcomed RNN in to school to hold a careers stall in student reception. Many students stopped to speak to our visitor about their options for post 16 study and the courses on offer at Rotherham College and Dearne Valley College. They learnt about the entry requirements and the possible job roles linked to particular courses and subjects. Hopefully this will spark some good conversations at home about their future and motivate them to greater efforts in school.



Post-16 Careers

Thank you to our former student Libby who presented to our post-16 students this week about her midwifery course, working in the NHS and her experience of post-16 and university study.



POST 16 CAREERS