

Aston Academy

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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
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27 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

We are finishing the second term of Year 7 on a high! Our attendance continues to be fantastic - above local and national average - and testament to your commitment to get Year 7 into school on time, equipped and ready to learn each day. We have significantly reduced the numbers of pupils who regularly experience 'broken weeks' due to missing the odd day here and there - and pupils feedback tells us that Year 7 really do feel part of a team. When we see them together on the head yard or in the assembly hall, this sense of teamwork and team spirit is clear. It really is very special, and we are so grateful to lead them.

Netball Lionesses!

We have been so proud to congratulate our Y7 Netball team in becoming Rotherham Champions in a thrilling finals day last Saturday. Staff and families were there to cheer them on to their convincing victory and it was a fantastic day. The girls collected their prizes and certificates in yesterday's celebration assembly. There was even more rapturous applause from the rest of Y7 on the head yard today as Mr Scantlebury MBE - himself decorated at Buckingham Palace for services to British sport - handed the girls their medals. I insisted that they wear them with pride to afternoon lessons - and I hope they show them off when they get home. All of our sports teams come from different primary backgrounds, different friendship groups, different levels of experience brought together by sport.

Aston Showcase

An amazing range of talent was on display at this week's Showcase, with Year 7 well represented. As Mr Graham observed in his welcome to guests - there were pupils on stage who are well versed in performance, and some who have just found the confidence to step into the spotlight for the very first time. I wish you could have seen and experienced the buzz, the teamwork and the unfailing mutual support backstage. Brilliant young people encouraging each other.

Theatre Trip Reminder

Sticking with the stage for now - polite reminder that places on our trip to see Summer Holiday at the Crucible Theatre in the last week of summer term are selling fast. We have negotiated excellent pupil rates of £15 and are keen to make the payment in full as soon as possible to secure the best seats - please make sure you snap up your place as soon as possible and no later than the **deadline of Friday 17th April**. It's hard to believe we are already this far into Year 7, so we feel sure that July will be here before we know it.

Part of the **ACET** family

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Term 3 at Aston Academy

We are always narrating the 'why,' of our stringent rules, line-ups and expectations to Year 7. They will be very familiar with me telling them that they are '*the blueprint for how things are done at Aston,*' and that the excellent habits of punctuality, preparedness and politeness we are working with you to establish in the children '*will pay them back time and time over.*' I don't mind repeating myself if I believe wholeheartedly in what I am saying! As next year's Y7 start to visit us in the summer term, we will be relying on current Y7 to show them how things are done here at Aston.

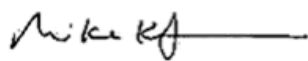
A few reminders for the break:

- Please check the uniform guidance on the website carefully before making any purchases as pupils outgrow shoes, trousers or skirts. Correct, full uniform is expected every day.
- Acrylic nails/false nails are absolutely not allowed in school. If these are being done as a holiday treat please ensure that they are done early in the holiday, so they can be enjoyed and removed in good time for the pupils return to school.
- Pupils should have their equipment pack every day - we check this at line-up. At this stage in the year, they might want to have a quick, inexpensive re-stock of basics. (Pupils love new stationery - a great alternative Easter gift for those who have had enough chocolate!)

Happy Easter

Thank you to all of our Year 7 families for your ongoing support and for sending us such polite, prepared and lovely children each day. I think we see it in our assembly hall most clearly - pupils listening attentively, applauding each other's success - and, this week, raising the roof with a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday, Ms Layden!' We wish you all a fantastic break and look forward to a brilliant summer term.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal