

Aston Academy

Aughton Road, Swallownest

Sheffield S26 4SF

t: 0114 287 2171

e: info@astonacademy.org

w: astonacademy.org

Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

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Dear parent/carer,

I hope you enjoyed your Easter weekend and managed to spend time with those most important to you. It has been lovely to welcome the students back into the academy this week. It was also wonderful to see the academy so busy over the Easter holidays, with revision sessions being run by our amazing Year 11 and Year 13 teachers. Well, done to all students who attended; on a number of days, we had well over 100 students attend. This will absolutely make a positive difference.

The return after the Easter holiday marks the beginning of our final term, made up of two very busy half terms. Although spring often represents new beginnings, in school it also signals the final stages for our older students in Years 11 and 13. While schools are about much more than just exams, it is important to recognise that exams are, of course, the natural endpoint of education. As students in our oldest year groups make their final preparations for the exam season, I would also encourage those in the younger years to take note. Time moves quickly, and it won't be long before they too are sitting their final school exams. Just as the recent mission to the Moon required years of planning, practice, and teamwork, success in final examinations comes from steady commitment and confidence built over time. The hard work that students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 put in now lays the foundation for success in their future.

I would also like to welcome and introduce two members of staff. We welcome Sue Torry as Associate Inclusion Lead/SENCo, and Craig Walton, who will lead our Post-16 provision. We are delighted to welcome these two very experienced and talented members of staff to our team, and I know they will make a considerable contribution to the provision we offer our students and families.

Over the Easter holidays, our uniform provider changed, as shared with you earlier this week. From 1 April, Schoolwear Solutions is now the official uniform supplier for Aston Academy. As an experienced, long-established school uniform provider working with schools across the North and South of the UK, they are proud to support families with high-quality, ethically sourced uniform.

I have included two links below that provide further details of our uniform and how to purchase. I have already spotted some of our new logo blazers around the site, and they look fantastic.

<https://www.schoolwearsolutions.com/our-schools/aston-academy/>

I also recommend visiting Aston Academy's uniform page on the school website, where you will find a helpful step-by-step video guide showing you exactly how to place your order online.

[Uniform and Equipment](#)

I am also posting below the pop-up uniform shops that we will host on site. Please make a note of these in your diary, as they will be an excellent way to purchase uniform items for your child:

- 30 April, 10am – 4pm (all year groups)
- 12 May, 4pm – 6pm (all year groups)
- 20–24 July, 10am – 4pm (new Year 7s and siblings)
- 14 August, 10am – 4pm (all year groups)



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During the last week of term before the Easter break, I had many highlights, but two in particular stand out. The first was the opportunity to represent the academy at our local partnership and networking meeting, hosted at Todwick Church Hall. In attendance were ward councillors, MPs, business leaders, charity organisations, NHS representatives and council representatives, among many other local providers. This is part of our drive to ensure that the academy is embedded within the local community, works with local providers, and provides the best possible service to our families. Topics included mental health, the environment, employment, social media and community support programmes. I want our community to be proud of our school, and working in collaboration will certainly help to promote a feeling of belonging within the community.

Collaboration also includes inviting teams into our school to ensure that we are seeking the best possible provision for our students. Yesterday, we welcomed a team from the English Reading Hub for the day. They had the opportunity to visit lessons in maths and humanities, drop in on tutor reading activities, and observe reading interventions with small groups and individual students. Reading is perhaps the most important tool we can give a child. I was delighted by the very positive feedback we received, which confirmed that reading and the support for our readers is making a considerable difference to students' learning, enjoyment and achievement. A big well done to the staff who welcomed the team into their lessons or interventions and allowed our visitors to watch our practice in action.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who have signed up to our Easyfundraising page. We launched this last year to support the provision of even more rewards for students. One hundred per cent of the money raised through Easyfundraising will go towards student rewards and praise.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aston-academy>



Already, this page has raised over £778, and every single penny will go into student rewards. If you have not signed up, please follow the link and get started — your support would be greatly appreciated. Please share with family and friends; it is easy to use and means we can afford more rewards, more often, for more students. Please use the weblink or QR code to sign up.

Next week, we wish our GCSE language and drama students the very best of luck as they begin their GCSE speaking and practical exams. I know they will be fantastic. I am also looking forward to welcoming as many Year 8 parents and carers as possible into the academy as we host the Year 8 consultation evening on Monday. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, ask questions, and receive feedback on their progress. Our turnout for consultation evenings this year has been the highest yet, and I am sure Monday will follow this trend.

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

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Graham'.

Mr J Graham
Principal

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