

Aston Academy

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17 April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

Welcome Back - Term 3

It has been an absolute joy to welcome Year 7 back this week for their third term at Aston Academy. They brought some lovely spring sunshine with them at the start of the week which made our Monday morning line up absolutely shine. To see a full year group of students ready to learn and demonstrating pride in their school community each morning is really special.

Mastery Booklets and learning at home

Pupils have been provided with their Term 3 mastery booklets this week. It's important that these are kept in good condition and brought to school each day - the plastic equipment pack should help with this. The mastery booklets contain the basic foundational knowledge and vocabulary that pupils will need in each subject area. We have spoken in today's assembly about how it is best practice to actively learn this knowledge, using techniques you will be familiar with from primary school such as Look/Cover/Write/Check. As a minimum, pupils could copy content over onto the blank pages in order to 'complete' their homework - but the learning is much more powerful and 'sticky' if they use the mastery booklet for self-testing. Best of all is when pupils complete their mastery booklet with a piece of scrap paper to hand for writing rehearsal before filling in 'best copy,' and when parent/carer takes an interest in the work covered. There are some truly exceptional mastery booklets being completed with amazing work every week: I look forward to sharing some of these with you on the screens at the Y7 consultation evening.

Theatre Trip - 'Summer Holiday' at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre - July 2026

Polite reminder - the deadline for us making payment to the theatre is fast approaching, so please ensure that you have secured your child's space on the trip via the School Gateway app as soon as possible and by the end of school on Tuesday 21st April at the latest.

Y6 Transition Visits - 30th June/1st July 2026

It has been wonderful to visit some of our incoming Year 7 cohort in their Y6 classrooms and these visits will be ongoing over the coming weeks. All of our new pupils will be visiting us for their full transition days on 30th June and 1st July 2026. Current Year 7 will play an important role in modelling the standards, expectations and routines that will help our new intake to succeed and thrive at Aston Academy. We keep reminding them that we will always be strict on standards and that they are 'the blueprint' for how things are done at Aston Academy. The praise flooding in from around the school and beyond speaks for itself. We are very proud of Year 7 and we know that seeing them in action will reassure any Year 6 pupils who may be feeling worried about the big 'step up' to secondary school.

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And finally, I cannot resist sharing with you one of the emails we received on Monday from Ms Foden, one of our fantastic languages department:

I have had such a wonderful start to the term with Y7 (who I have periods 1-3 on a Monday morning) that I wanted to share with you again just how impeccable their behaviour has been. Particularly 7XSp2 period 3 who even went above and beyond the excellent behaviour and standards set by 7WSp2 this morning. It was such a pleasure teaching them all - a real reminder of why we do this job. 😊


Special mentions this time to Blake and Arnie for their excellent behaviour, attitude and effort in lesson, George for an exemplary demonstration of how to be resilient when writing in Spanish and Naomi, Rebecca, Buddy and David for outstanding engagement and contribution to the lesson.

What a credit to Y7 and their families they all were. I couldn't fault them as a class at all.

Thank you again for everything that you all do to support us which then makes lessons easier to teach and more enjoyable for all.

I can only echo Ms Foden's thanks to all our families for upholding these standards with Y7. I am sure they are sick of hearing me tell them that good habits will pay them back over their five years with us and well into their working lives - but I make no apology for repeating what I know in my head and heart to be true! A great first week back.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal