

## **Aston Academy**

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

24 April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

It is always an exciting moment when Year 11 receive their Leaver's Hoodies - the busy exam period and the end of secondary school are in sight; prom celebrations are on the horizon and revision-mode is in overdrive. I mention this because I remember so well when our current Y11 were our Year 7 - it is always a joy to see how far they have come, how they have grown and how they have come together as a team. As I keep reminding our current Year 7 - their potential is absolutely limitless, and they are setting our highest ever standards. I also keep reminding them that the time between now and Year 11 will fly by, so they should make each day, each lesson, each opportunity count.

### **Attendance**

With the above in mind, thank you for your continued support in ensuring children attend punctually every day. It is always fantastic to welcome Year 7 in under the arches every day for morning line-up. We will continue to celebrate and promote attendance in our weekly assemblies.

### **Mastery Booklets**

Thank you for your response to our reminders about standards in mastery booklets at the start of the term. We sampled a few this week and saw some exceptional work presented beautifully and with real attention to detail. It was great to see crossings out and corrections too - the mastery booklet should be a learning document, not just a 'copying' document! Mastery booklets are at their most effective when a parent/carer is taking an interest in their child's work, discussing the content and maybe helping them with some self-quizzing or testing. You will know if your child has gone 'above and beyond' in terms of effort with some aspect of their home learning - so please let us know. We would be keen to celebrate these efforts with Proud Friday rewards or shout-outs on Classcharts.

### **Upholding our standards**

Thank you for echoing our consistent messages around uniform and equipment expectations at home. As Mr Graham says all the time - when home, pupil and schoolwork in collaboration toward the same goal it is so powerful. Because confiscations are so vanishingly rare in Y7, we are able to have the necessary follow up conversations with pupils and home. Pupils and staff can see that the expectations are fair, clear and consistently applied: thank you for your support in helping us build this culture.

Special shout out to Ms Easton's tutor group who were 100% fully equipped with all items laid out on the template during this week's checks - that's every single child ready to learn.

### **Theatre Trip - July 2026**

Our last few tickets are available for our trip to see Sheffield Theatre's new production of Summer Holiday in the last week of term. It has been a great year so far for trips so we would love to celebrate the end of Year 7 with as many pupils as possible - you can give consent and payment of £15.00 via School Gateway.

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**Gathering Feedback - the 'Step Up to Secondary.'**

Earlier this year, we received several messages like the one below from parents/carers of Year 7. This kind of feedback means so much to our whole school community - we are so keen to foster that real sense of belonging that makes all of our new starters feel safe and valued. As we are communicating weekly with our new Y6 intake, we would like to pass on your (anonymised) messages of reassurance - so if your child has had a positive experience, received additional support or settled in really well and you could spare a few moments it would help us to share these messages with Y6 families and those with younger children who may be considering Aston Academy for their school of choice.

***"My child was very nervous about starting Year 7 but has settled right into a routine. Coming from a very small, close primary it was a big change, but she hasn't looked back. She has made new friends and kept old friends, she is loving the feeling of being more grown up and the wider range of lessons. As parents we are so happy with her transition and our interactions with the school have all been positive and all staff have been lovely, thank you!"***

You can give feedback here: [Feedback Form](#)

Yours faithfully,



Mike Kilgannon  
Assistant Vice Principal