

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

1 May 2026

Dear parent/carer,

This week started with a phone call at 9.30am from Ofsted to inform us that we would be visited by six Ofsted inspectors on Tuesday and Wednesday. The school was last visited in December 2023, so we were due for another visit this academic year; however, the date is not shared with schools prior to the visit. Inspectors were on site from 7.45am to 5pm each day. They visited lessons, spoke to our students and staff, observed our routines, reviewed data, and held meetings with school leaders around each area of the inspection.

- Safeguarding
- Inclusion
- Curriculum & Teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance & Behaviour
- Personal Development & Wellbeing
- Post-16
- Leadership & Governance

Thank you to our parents and carers who took the time to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey. This certainly helped to provide the inspection team with further evidence needed to make their judgements. The final judgements made by the Ofsted team will now be moderated and shared with the school; this can take between 18 and 30 working days before we are allowed to publish the report to our parents/carers and students.

The inspection team could not speak more highly of our students, the welcome they received, and the mature conversations they had with them. This piece of feedback filled me with pride and highlights the importance of students being able to discuss their learning, reflect on their academic journey, and provide feedback about their experiences of our school.

I am looking forward to sharing the final report when it is published. Since I took on the role of Principal, I have spoken about our journey of improvement, and that will continue at pace. We fully expect the report to highlight areas that can be considered strengths, as well as areas that we need to continue developing. We want to provide the best possible experience and provision for our students and staff, and an Ofsted visit—although stressful! —is a great signpost as to what our next actions should be.

It has been wonderful to see students taking part in extra-curricular activities this term, particularly those making the most of outdoor sports in the beautiful weather. We have all the traditional summer sports clubs, as well as a number of exciting new clubs that students will enjoy. A feeling of belonging that extra-curricular participation provide is so important for students; it allows them to feel “part of something”, socialise, and share common goals. All of these add up to a happier school experience where students can thrive and achieve together. Please remember that all our clubs are free to join, and all students are welcome.



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

Part of the **ACET** family

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

A special mention to our Y11 Rounder's team who on Thursday competed in the Rotherham Rounders finals and placed second. Another amazing sports results for the students and PE staff, also a wonderful way for our Y11 girls to sign off from Aston Academy school sport. A very proud principal moment!

This is also a good time to remind you to send in any pictures or details of achievements your child has had outside of school. We are always keen to celebrate with you and share these on our social media and reception screens. I have included the link to our summer clubs below—please encourage your child to take part:

[Extra+Curricular+Clubs](#)

Good luck to our Y7 cohort, who will be completing SSAs (Standardised Summative Assessments) next week. These are 50-minute assessments completed under exam conditions, with external invigilators and GCSE-style rules and regulations. SSAs are unseen assessments that test learning over time. Ultimately, all students will sit external GCSE exams at the end of Year 11, so we believe it is very important that students have the opportunity to experience a “slimmed-down” version of these. This allows students to understand routines, become familiar with exam rooms and invigilator staff, and build the resilience and confidence needed to perform under exam conditions. I am sure that our Y7 students, supported by the fabulous Y7 pastoral team, will take these assessments in their stride.

As the weather gets warmer, please encourage your child to bring a bottle of water to school. Two bottles work best and can be filled at breaktime or lunchtime. Water can be drunk in classrooms (not science labs); however, we do not allow students to leave lessons to fill bottles, so it is important that students are organised and have water to hand if necessary.

Next week, we are looking forward to another visit from Jake Richards MP. He will again be working with our Y10 students and Mr Staniland, collecting further student voice around the use of mobile phones and specific social media sites by teenagers. We were delighted that the MP chose Aston Academy Y10 students for this piece of work. This will be his second visit, and students have also completed questionnaires. All of this will go towards forming Rotherham youth voice on the subject when it is discussed again in Parliament—an amazing opportunity for our students to influence national change.

I am sure you will not forget that the academy is closed for the May Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May and will reopen to welcome all students on Tuesday 6th May from 8.10am.

With summer sunshine, final exams, and after-school clubs all blooming into life as we move into May, author Helen Keller perhaps sums it up best in her quote:

“The month of May reminds us that education is not just the preparation for life, but the moment when effort turns into achievement.”

I, for one, cannot wait to celebrate the student achievements throughout our summer.

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

Have a wonderful long weekend.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales