

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

15 May 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Another week finished; the half term really is moving quickly. Next week will be our final week of half term 5 before the Spring Bank Holiday (Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May).

This week we have been so impressed by the resilience, motivation and determination shown by our Y11 and Y13 examination students. It has been a very busy week for exams, and I hope the children are proud of what they have achieved so far. My daughter is in Y11, so I am certainly feeling the full range of emotions as both a father and a principal, desperate for the children to do well and be pleased with themselves. My house is surviving on plenty of TLC, snacks and keeping her younger brother away from her!

I must also mention what a great job our Aston Academy staff are doing. This includes the exam team, the amazing and motivational Y11 pastoral team, our team of invigilators, and staff running extra exam boosters, weekend online revision, and covering lessons for colleagues to allow them to work directly with our students prior to exams – it is a real team effort! That team also includes our Y11 and Y13 families – we really appreciate your support in ensuring children are attending, revising at home, and arriving fit and ready for each exam. Thank you!

Amongst a very busy exam week, I have had plenty of other proud principal moments to celebrate. On Wednesday, I received the news that the Chair of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council, Councillor Sonia Smith, had selected ten of our students to receive a £25 gift card in recognition of their achievements so far this year, whether academic, pastoral or sporting. We can't wait to let the winning students know and present them with the award. It is amazing to have ten of our students nominated and all ten selected to be rewarded. I am always very proud when our community recognises the amazing young people, we have the privilege to work and celebrate with.

Today, we had the pleasure of rewarding every student as they entered school at 8:10am. You will remember I mentioned in my recent Friday update that we are extremely proud of our students following our recent two-day Ofsted inspection. The team of six inspectors all commented on how welcoming our students had been. They were particularly impressed with how students could speak about their learning, the routines of the academy, and their responses to questions around safeguarding, wellbeing, and school life.

As a small token of how proud we are of them, today every student received a cookie (or a dietary alternative) as they entered school. We want our students to know the huge part they play in making Aston Academy a great place to work each day. Thank you also to Mellors Catering, who provided the treats.



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

Continuing my *Proud Principal* theme, I must mention our Y10 Health and Social Care students who this week have been to Aughton Primary School to undertake some work experience for their course. The students worked with Aughton pupils on a range of skills such as reading and maths. The teacher was so impressed with our students that they would love the opportunity to have them return for further work and support. The students represented themselves and the Academy brilliantly; we are so proud of them all and received amazing feedback from the staff they worked with. Well done to Miss Cant, Team PE, and our Y10 leaders, who give the students so much confidence and self-belief. I can't wait to hear today's feedback as our next class attends Aughton for their experience.

This week we were contacted by the Children's Commissioner, Rachel de Souza, requesting that our students have the opportunity to complete the survey below as part of *The Big Future*. Under the Children Act 2004, it is the Commissioner's role to promote the views and interests of children in England. Hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That is why our students have been asked to complete *The Big Future* survey. They are seeking information from children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, they want to know what a good childhood should look like today.

The link to the survey is below, and I thought it might be something you would like to complete together. I am sending it for Aston Academy students, but the survey is open to children up to the age of 18, so if your child has younger or older siblings, please feel free to complete it with them as well:

[The Big Future Survey](#)

Half term 6 has many events to look forward to. Just a few include: Y10 work experience week, Y8 work shadowing, even more rewards, Y7 consultation evening, sports awards, Y6 transition days, Prom, Y11 leavers' assembly, and of course, many more trips and opportunities.

Good luck to our exam students next week. I am sure they will be revising over the weekend, but please ensure they also take some time to relax, recharge, and get outside to enjoy some exercise and sunshine (wishful thinking!).

My quote this week, if your child is sitting an exam:

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt

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

Have a wonderful 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