

Aston Academy

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12 June 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Another Friday arrives and marks the end of a busy school week for our students and staff. Today marks the final full week of our summer exams for Years 11 and 13. Just a few more days next week before they are complete.

I have mentioned before that we are so proud of how our students have tackled exam season. Their conduct, resilience and ambition have shown through from the very first exam. This culture is now becoming the norm at our school. For example, the work the Year 10 cohort and year team are doing as they prepare for the challenges awaiting them in Year 11 is something to be very excited about. It is the perfect example of home, school and students working together to ensure the success of **Team27** (we are calling the Year 10 cohort this as they work towards the summer 2027 exams).

Thank you to our Year 10 parents/carers and for the daily support our heads of faculty, staff and pastoral teams are giving our soon-to-be Year 11 cohort. If you are a Year 10 parent/carer or have children in younger year groups and would like to see what is upcoming around exam preparation, then please visit our school website. I have included the link below to the Team27 Year 10 support page.

[Team27 support](#)

Our Year 11 cohort enter the last week of compulsory education. I am sure parents of our Year 11 students, like me, are thinking: *where has the time gone?* We would have been taking our now Year 11 children to primary school for their first day in Year 1 back in 2015. David Cameron was Prime Minister, Queen Elizabeth II was about to become the longest-reigning monarch, the news reported the Paris terror attacks, and you may have been taking your child to the cinema to watch the first *Minions* movie. For some of us, the biggest memory will be Zayn leaving One Direction!

On Monday, the school gets to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 students at the annual leavers' assembly. We really will miss this cohort. They are exceptional and should be very proud of how they have handled Year 11. We can't wait to celebrate with them in August when they receive their results.

As one cohort finishes, another begins their journey into secondary education. We can't wait to meet our new Year 7 2026 cohort during the transition days on 30th June and 1st July. Our current Year 7s have been absolutely fantastic and will serve as role models for our incoming students. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming both new and familiar families at the induction evening for parents/carers of new Year 7 students on 1st July.

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My proud principal moment this week was the wonderful two performances of *Macbeth On The Loose*, performed by our Year 10 drama students (with a little help from some Year 8 and 9 students). The performance was a full hour-and-a-quarter show, and the students really did themselves proud with the work they have put in. We had a full audience of staff, students and parents. I am always proud when our students get to display the incredible things they do on a daily basis at school. Thank you to those who came to watch, and a huge thank you to the talented drama team of Miss Gratton and Mr Taylor.

I know that some of our families are starting to think about uniform for September. I have attached our uniform policy again so that you can easily refer to it if you are purchasing uniform.

[Aston Academy Uniform Policy](#)

I also want to highlight a section that will help when selecting appropriate school footwear. I have copied our footwear section of the uniform policy below:

We expect students to wear sensible, low-heeled, plain black footwear. The shoes should be leather, patent leather, or leather-look and 'polishable'. Students are permitted to wear low-heeled, plain black boots during winter months. However, boots must be worn so that any trousers are over the boot and not tucked into it. Boots should not be worn with a skirt.

The following are not acceptable:

- Trainers of any kind or shoes with trainer-like soles
- Shoes or trainers with flashing lights, buckles, bows, trims, or excessive accessories
- Stilettos or shoes with heels over 3cm
- Sandals, open-toed, slingback or backless shoes
- Canvas shoes/trainers
- Jelly-type/rubber shoes such as Crocs

In September, we will be accepting footwear such as Nike Air Force 1-type shoes. These meet the brief of being black and polishable, and although they have a rubber sole, it is flat-bottomed and not what we would class as a trainer sole. We believe these shoes are comfortable, supportive and hard-wearing. If you have any questions, please contact your child's year team or, if necessary, send them a picture of the footwear you plan to purchase.



The students had a lovely treat this morning, as all students had the chance to receive a free breakfast item as they entered school, kindly provided by Mellors to raise awareness around world hunger and the benefits of a healthy start to the day. I hope it reminded our students to be grateful for what they have, as many young people around the world are not as fortunate. Students could choose from wholemeal toast, a fruit pot, porridge or yoghurt. As we know, a healthy start to the day provides energy, helps concentration and gives the goodness a growing body needs.

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Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a great opportunity brought to us by Skills Street, an immersive skills and careers-based education centre based at Gulliver's Valley theme park. The Skills Street Army Skills Camp is back for 2026, offering a unique opportunity for young people aged 15–18 to build confidence, develop leadership skills and take on exciting new challenges in an action-packed environment.

Working in partnership with the Army on 19th–20th August 2026, participants will enjoy a day of team-building activities at Skills Street before heading into a 24-hour, overnight, Army-led fieldcraft camp experience.

This is a chance to:

- 👉 Build resilience and confidence
- 👊 Strengthen teamwork and communication
- 🧠 Develop practical, real-world skills
- 🚀 Grow leadership abilities
- ☀️ Step outside your comfort zone and achieve something amazing

Book your place today: <https://lnkd.in/eRbjib7F>

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

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

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