

Aston Academy

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Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

19 June 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Happy Friday.

Our summer external examinations for Y11 and Y13 finished this week, and we said our final goodbyes to the students. What an exciting time for them as they reach an important life milestone and begin preparing for the next chapter, which will hopefully guide them towards a happy, successful and healthy future.

I have mentioned this a few times in my recent letters, but I cannot express how proud we are of our students in Y11 and Y13. They have been outstanding during the summer examination season, and we all hope that their results reflect this. We look forward to celebrating with them when they receive their results on Thursday 13 August for Y13 and Thursday 20 August for our Y11 cohort.

As the weather gradually starts to get warmer (about time!), may I suggest that you encourage your child to bring a bottle of water to school. Two bottles often work best and can be refilled at breaktime or lunchtime. Water may be consumed in classrooms (excluding science laboratories), but we do not allow students to leave lessons to refill bottles. Therefore, it is important that students are organised and have a drink available if needed.

Some of our students freeze one bottle overnight so that the water remains cool throughout the day. At times, we may make temporary adaptations to our uniform expectations to help students remain comfortable during particularly warm weather. For example, we may inform students that they do not need to wear a blazer or tie if they choose not to. Any such adjustments will always be communicated directly to students and to you, our parents/carers.

I mentioned uniform in my letter last week, and I know that some families are already beginning to think about uniform purchases for September. For ease of reference, I have attached our Uniform Policy again so that you can easily refer to it when purchasing uniform items. Please pay particular attention to the sections relating to trousers, skirts and jewellery. Correct uniform in September helps ensure a positive and enjoyable start to the academic year.

[Aston Academy Uniform Policy](#)

I would also like to highlight a section of the policy that may help when selecting suitable school footwear. From September, we will continue to accept footwear such as Nike Air Force 1-style shoes. These meet our expectations 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.



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If you have any questions, please contact your child's Year Team or, if necessary, send them a photograph of the footwear you are considering purchasing. We are aware that some students may have a medical condition that requires specific footwear. Arrangements for this can be made through communication between home and the relevant Year Team.



To avoid unnecessary expense on incorrect school footwear, 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 or trainers
- Jelly-type or rubber shoes, such as Crocs

I have included some useful email addresses below to provide you with a more direct route of communication, particularly during periods when our telephone lines are busy. Our phones do get incredibly busy throughout the school day, and answering every call can be challenging as our reception staff are also welcoming visitors, parents/carers and other professionals into and out of the academy for meetings and events.

I hope these email addresses are helpful. Please make a note of them and use them where appropriate to support quicker and more efficient communication.

Year Teams

- Y7: aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y8: aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y9: aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y10: aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y11: aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Post 16: aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org

Safeguarding (please be reassured that this email address is closely monitored throughout the school day):
aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

SEND and Inclusion:
aa-send@astonacademy.org

Attendance:
aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

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I have mentioned this a few times before in my Friday updates, but I would like to thank those parents/carers who have already signed up to our easyfundraising page. Together, we have raised £825, all of which goes directly into our students' rewards and praise activities. Last month, we were in the top 10% nationally for donations— an amazing effort by everyone who has signed up.

If you have not yet signed up, please follow the link below and get started. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please also share the link with family and friends. It is easy to use and helps us provide more rewards, more often, for more students.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aston-academy>

Finally, for parents who are already planning for the upcoming academic year, the school closes for the summer holidays for students at 12.30pm on Friday 17 July.

I would also like to share some additional dates when school will be closed to students next academic year:

INSET Days: 1 and 2 September (students return on 3 September)

ACET Secondary INSET Day: 9 October

Disaggregated School Closure: Friday 23 October

Disaggregated INSET Days: Friday 27 November and Monday 18 January

Further information can be found using the link below:

School term dates – [Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Good luck to our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh students who are completing their overnight expedition this weekend, camping and walking on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is an amazing opportunity and an experience that will stay with them for years to come. We have been pleased this week to receive a recognition certificate from the DofE, which recognises that our students logged almost 700 hours volunteering last year, and by the time that this year's candidates complete their award, we know that that number will have exceeded 1000 hours. A significant thanks to all of the parents who support with DofE, through attending meetings, taking children to volunteering, skill, and physical training, and supporting them in preparing for expedition. We can expect some very hot and tired students by Sunday evening! Thanks also to the staff who spend a significant amount of time to ensure students get this wonderful opportunity.

We can't wait to welcome our Y7 parents and carers to the consultation evening on Monday 22 June. This is a great opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and discuss their learning and progress. We will also be asking you to provide some feedback on Monday to help us understand our Y7 parents' views and experiences of Aston Academy during their child's first year of secondary school. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

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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