

## Aston Academy

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**Principal:** James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

**CEO:** Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

30 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

### **You did this. Our students, our teachers, our community - this is your achievement.**

I want to start this letter not with inspection results, but with a thank you.

To every student who came through our doors and gave their best. To every member of staff who worked tirelessly to provide the best possible provision for our community. To every parent and carer who trusted us, encouraged their children, worked with and stood by us. Thank you.

Ofsted inspected Aston Academy on 28 April 2026. The report confirms significant progress across the school, progress that belongs to all of us.

### **Where we have come from**

In 2023, Aston Academy was judged to Require Improvement. That was a difficult moment for our community. 28 months on, inspectors confirm that we are making the progress our students deserve. Attendance is up, behaviour creates a safe and calm learning environment, achievement at GCSE is in line with national averages, our pastoral care is recognised as a genuine strength, and the gap in achievement between our disadvantaged students and their peers is closing. None of that happened by accident.

### **What inspectors told us**

Ofsted found that across the majority of areas assessed, Aston Academy is meeting the standard expected of a good school. Among the things they highlighted:

- **Students feel safe** and report that bullying is rare. When it does occur, it is dealt with effectively.
- **Safeguarding standards are fully met.** The school has an open and positive culture in which the safety of every student is everyone's responsibility.
- **Attendance has improved steadily** and is now in line with the national average.
- **Achievement is rising.** Attainment at Key Stage 4 is now in line with national averages, including for our disadvantaged students, and the gap is closing.
- **Pastoral support is a strength of the school.** Our team is recognised for knowing students well and acting quickly when anyone needs extra help.
- **Personal development is strong.** Our programme is carefully sequenced, age-appropriate and covers everything from British values to healthy relationships, careers guidance, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities.
- **Leadership and governance are working.** Leaders know the school well, Aston Community Education Trust provides strong challenge and support, and our strategic direction is clearly focused on improving outcomes.

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

- **Students are well prepared for life beyond school.** Careers education, work experience, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities are all meeting the expected standard.

## Where we are still working and why that matters

Two areas of the report are identified as 'Needs Attention': curriculum and teaching, and inclusion particularly how teachers support students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in lessons.

It is important to understand what 'Needs Attention' means. Ofsted use this phrase to identify areas where there is still inconsistency in delivery, or where the impact of change has not yet been fully seen. This is not a judgement that the school is failing, it is a recognition that work is already underway and that we need more time and consistency to see its full impact.

I want to reassure SEND families especially: we know what needs to happen, we have a clear plan, and the fact that Ofsted inspected in April gives us something valuable, time. Time to use the rest of this term and the summer to prepare precisely, so that every student feels the difference from September.

We are confident and we are not waiting.

## What this tells our students

If I could say one thing to every young person at Aston Academy right now, it is this: look at what you have helped to build. Your attendance, your effort, your willingness to keep going, it matters, it is counted, and it is proof that anything is possible when a community decides to move forward together.

At ACET, we believe that every child has the right to an education that transforms their life and helps them reach their potential. Aston Academy is living that belief every day.

## A message from our CEO

*"Every student in our trust deserves a school that believes in them. Aston Academy's progress is proof of what becomes possible when teachers, students and families come together around that shared belief. At ACET, we are immensely proud of this community, and we are committed to going further together."*

## Rebecca Scutt

*Chief Executive Officer, Aston Community Education Trust*

This report is not the end of our journey it is a milestone on a longer road. We will keep pushing. We will keep improving. And we will keep doing it together.

The full Ofsted report will be available at [reports.ofsted.gov.uk](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk) once published and sent to you. Please do read it.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham  
Principal

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