

Aston Academy

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

03 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

A note of sincere thanks to Year 7 for providing the perfect blueprint and supporting a very successful two transition days for our visiting Year 6 pupils. Year 7 were helpful, welcoming and kind - we expected nothing less and they absolutely delivered. It's really important that when we are joined by our new intake in September, our new Year 8 (where has a school year gone?!) continue to set the right tone and lead by example.

We always seek feedback and it has been lovely to hear that next year's Year 7 are feeling reassured and excited about making the step up to secondary school with us.

Maintaining momentum - starting Year 8 right

We have been speaking to pupils a lot about how to keep standards high and really accelerate learning and development as they move into Year 8. It is vital that we maintain our high standards, so they continue to be our best year group ever in terms of their attendance, conduct and attitude to learning. There are a few ways you can support with this:

- Continue to take an interest in the studies and work the children bring home. You will be able to tell them how proud you are when you know they have tried their best and really applied themselves: this means a huge amount to the children - even when teenagers seem reluctant to accept praise!
- Have regular check-ins that your child is well organised and prepared for learning - is their equipment pack complete, orderly and in good condition? Are they taking pride in the presentation of their books?
- Continue to encourage sensible limits on screen time and encourage a healthy reading habit. Good for learning and mental wellbeing.
- Confiscations in Year 7 are vanishingly rare - we hardly ever have to confiscate any items of non-uniform or phones because we have been utterly clear and consistent with the children from the very start: no exceptions. Pupils have valued this clarity and bought into the consistently applied rules. Please continue to support this message.

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Tutor Groupings - Year 7 into Year 8

Tutor groups will be refreshed and re-set as we move into Year 8. Your child's Year 8 tutor grouping will be on their new timetable issued to them on arrival to school in September. Tutor period will continue to take place at the centre of each day. It is when the pupils are taught their Personal Development curriculum and receive key whole-school and community messages. Year 8 assembly will usually take place on a Thursday, and one tutor period per week will focus specifically on sharpening and refining pupils' reading skills and encouraging reading for pleasure.

Line-Ups - Year 8

Year 8 pupils will line-up in a designated Year 8 area at the start of each day - the whistle going at 8.23am to ensure all pupils are stood in their correct place in line 8.30am, ready for their Period 1 teachers to collect them. Pupils will therefore arrive at Period 1 in single file, silent and settled - ready for a day's learning. Y8 pupils will also line-up at the end of break and lunchtime, clearly marking the end of unstructured time and the start of lesson time.

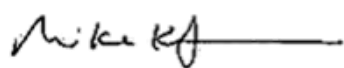
Theatre Trip - Summer Holiday at Sheffield Crucible Theatre

Pupils joining us for the trip to see Summer Holiday on Wednesday 15th July should be at the front of the Crucible Theatre no later than 6.30pm in order that they can be registered and in seats in good time for the performance to start. We will send out an estimated finish time to collect the children once we have heard back from the theatre.

Pupils are reminded that we are on show and proud to be Aston Academy pupils - manners, thoughtfulness and consideration go a long way. I always ask for feedback from members of the public and it is always a source of enormous pride to hear how lovely our pupils are. As this person noted in December - Aston pupils are first-class:

"I am sorry to say that one's heart all too frequently sinks when one realises that 'there's a school party in'. But this is just prejudice. The students from Aston were polite and well mannered. They cleared up after themselves. They were considerate of others. Their engagement in question and answers was thoughtful and empathetic. It was great to see some of them getting their first experience of theatre in such a positive way. They are delightful young people. I must also congratulate the staff who were giving up their own time with grace and warmth. I would love any child of mine to have such care in their lives."

Yours faithfully,



Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal