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

Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

10 July 2026

Dear parent/carer,

RE: End-of-Term and Start-of-Term Arrangements

With just a week to go before we break up for the summer holidays at 12.30pm on Friday 17 July, I would like to use my Friday letter to share some key information about the end of this academic year and the start of the next.

May I start, however, with another huge thank you from my staff and me regarding the support, positive communications and constructive conversations we have had this academic year.

We close for the summer holidays at 12.30pm on Friday 17 July.

We will be engaged in learning right up until the academy closes, so please ensure your child attends up to this point. As we finish early on 17 July, could I please ask that you note the following arrangements to the bus timetable.

Students will be able to purchase food at breaktime in the normal way, but lunch will not be served on Friday 17 July. Any students who access free school meals will have the opportunity to collect a lunch grab bag during breaktime if they wish.

Bus Arrangements for Friday 17 July

Service	Route Summary	Operator / Route
627	Serves Aughton, Swallownest, Beighton, Norwood, Harthill	Coopers - Aston Academy 12.30 Swallownest, Main St/Park St 12.35 Beighton, Queens Rd/Robin Ln 12.40 Norwood, Sheffield Rd/Roundabout 12.42 Harthill, Firvale/Winney Hill 12.55.
629	Serves Waverley, Catcliffe, Aughton	Keats Travel - Aston Academy 1230 Treeton, High Hazel Rd/Well Ln 12.40 Waverley, Highfield Ln/Highfield Spring 12.55
654	Serves Treeton, Aughton	Cawthorne Travel - Aston Academy 12.30 Treeton, Wood Ln/Pit Ln 12.40
X5	Serves Handsworth	First South Yorkshire – Swallownest Main St 1302 Handsworth Rd/Richmond Rd 1313 Sheffield interchange 13.27
71S	Serves Treeton/Catcliffe/Handsworth	TM Travel - Swallownest Main St 13.07, Treeton, Wood Lane 13.14, Handsworth 13.29 Sheffield Centre (C5) 13.45

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If you have any questions about these last-day arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please make a note of the email addresses below 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 and summer break.)

aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

SEND and Inclusion

aa-send@astonacademy.org

Attendance

aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

Information for the Academic Year 2026/2027

Return in September

Staff will be returning for our INSET days on Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September.

Y7–Y11 Students - Students should return on Thursday 3rd September at the following times:

New Y7 and New Y8

Gates open at 8.10am and students should be onsite by 8.20am, ready to begin at 8.30am.

- Y7 students will line up as they did during induction-day visits (members of staff will be at the gates to direct our new students).
- Y8 students will be directed to morning line-ups by the Y8 Pastoral Team before meeting tutors.
- All new Y7 and Y8 students will spend the day with their group tutor, going over our behaviour and rewards policy, routines and classroom cues. They will also take part in a welcome-back assembly.

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New Y9, Y10 and Y11

Students should arrive for break. Gates open from 10.30am, with all students on site by 10.55am.

- Signage will be in place so students can see details of their tutor rooms upon arrival.
- All students will spend the day with their tutor reviewing routines and expectations, including receiving timetables and key information to support their transition into the new academic year. They will also take part in a welcome-back assembly.

New Y13 Students

New Y13 students should return at 8.20am on Monday 7 September.

- Y13 students will receive timetables, attend a welcome-back briefing and begin lessons.

Bus Information for the Staggered Start on Thursday 3 September

Service	Route Summary	Operator / Route
627	Serves Aughton, Swallownest, Beighton, Norwood, Harthill	Y7 Y8- Harthill, Firvale/Winney hill 0740, Norwood, Sheffield Road Roundabout 0750 Sothall, Hartland Avenue/Delamere close 8.00, Beighton Robin Lane/Woodhouse Crescent 0807, Swallownest Main Street 8.13. Y9 Y10 Y11- Harthill, Firvale/Winney hill 10.15, Norwood, Sheffield Road Roundabout 10.25 Sothall, Hartland Avenue/Delamere close 10.35, Beighton Robin Lane/Woodhouse Crescent 10.45, Aston Academy 10.55.
654/ 629	Serves Waverley, Catcliffe, Aughton, Serves Treeton, Aughton	Y7 Y8- Journey Start 0736 Woodhouse, Waverley 7.50am through to Aston Academy. Y9 Y10 Y11 - Journey Start 9.45am Woodhouse, Waverley 10.00am through to Aston Academy.
X5	Serves Handsworth	These are service buses so timetables will need to be checked by parent/carers.
71s	Serves Treeton/Catcliffe/Handsworth	These are service buses so timetables will need to be checked by parent/carers.

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School Uniform for September 2026

We thank you for the positive way you have engaged with our Year Teams regarding our uniform standards and when they have contacted you to ask for your support around our uniform requirements.

We will continue to contact you individually if we have any concerns about current uniform standards. Please let us know if this raises any questions.

When we return in September, it is vital that uniform infringements do not prevent students and staff from focusing on learning and teaching. Your support in ensuring that your child's uniform meets our policy is therefore very important. We will contact you if we have any concerns.

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 have shared this already, but just highlighting again that from September we will 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.



We will not accept trainers unless there is a documented medical or SEND-related reason. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Year Team or send them a photograph of the footwear you are considering purchasing.

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

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If your child intends to have any facial piercings or additional piercings, this should take place at the start of the holidays so that it has healed and can be removed by Thursday 3 September, our policy allows a pair of stud earrings worn in the earlobes.

This also relates to unnatural hair colours, jewellery (apart from a watch and a pair of stud earrings worn in the earlobes), and false nails or coloured nail varnish.

I am also sharing again the dates of the pop-up uniform shops that we will be hosting on site. Please make a note of these in your diary, as they offer an excellent opportunity to purchase uniform items for your child:

- 20–24 July, 10am–4pm (new Year 7 students, siblings and other families welcome)
- 14 August, 10am–4pm (all year groups)

Mobile Phones

'Not Seen, Not Heard'

You will likely be aware of the recent media coverage. The guidance refers to schools being phone-free environments throughout the entire school day, including lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

At Aston Academy, this policy is already in place, and all students are expected to adhere to our '**not seen, not heard**' approach to mobile phones.

We have updated our Behaviour Policy to further clarify our position and response to the Government's discussion around mobile phone use. I am pleased that, as a school, we have been proactive in our approach to mobile phones. They are 'not seen, not heard' while students are on site.

We have not waited for Government guidance but instead identified the issue and implemented a policy that is effective and makes a positive difference. However, given the recent media coverage, I felt it was a good time to further clarify our stance by including this policy in my Friday update.

If you would like to read more, please click the link below and, in particular, review Appendix 3 on page 15 regarding the use of mobile phones.

[Behaviour Policy 2026 – Including Mobile Phone Use](#)

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Your support for our policies, routines and practices is greatly appreciated, as it allows academy staff to focus on our number one priority: providing a high-quality education, experience and opportunity for all our students.

I finish each of my Friday letters with the phrase:

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

I truly believe this to be the cornerstone of any improvement, and I have certainly felt the strength of this throughout my second year as Principal. We are committed to wanting the very best for our students, staff and families. We are eager to continue building on the very solid foundations we have created together during this academic year.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graham', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Graham
Principal

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