

Aston Academy

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

10 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

Week of attendance

I'd like to begin by thanking all families for a fantastic week's attendance. Despite the very hot weather and some unavoidable illness, Year 7 attendance has been well above national - so much so that a colleague from North Yorkshire dropped me a line to ask us what we were doing! While we are keen to encourage and reward good attendance, the truth is that only a consistent routine and an environment where your children feel valued, safe and known will keep them coming to school every day. As Mr Graham says all the time, the combination of home, school and student is massively powerful - your support this year in making our attendance so good has been invaluable. Let's keep this going to the very end of Year 7 and into Year 8.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Many thanks to Ms Durkin and our science faculty for organising this week's trips to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park for Y7 pupils. On Tuesday it was lovely to receive this email into school completely unprompted - another school were using the park and a member of their team noticed Aston Y7 and got in touch:

I was at Yorkshire Wildlife Park today with my school and I wanted to share my thoughts about your students who conducted themselves brilliantly.

The Aston students were completely fantastic. They seemed engaged, attentive, polite, lovely & the staff were organised and nurturing. We were really impressed!

I hope you feel as proud of the children as we do - feedback like this means so much to us.

Y8 - Starting Right and Maintaining Momentum

Last week's assembly focused on stepping up into Y8 and avoiding any drop in standards. As Year 8 begins, pupils are growing up quickly - but GCSE examinations can feel like a long way away. It is really important that the pupils do not lose focus. We are determined that there will be no dip in standards of behaviour, attendance or engagement in learning - it is vital that pupils continue to expect the best of themselves and from each other.

A few key bits of information with Year 8 in mind:

- Year 8 will complete formal line up every morning at the start of the school day, at the end of morning break and at the end of lunchtime: signalling a clear break between less structured time and lessons.
- Tutor groups will be refreshed - your child will have a new form tutor and a new tutor room.
- Uniform and equipment will be checked daily at line-ups and on arrival to each lesson: please ensure adherence to our very clear rules and expectations to ensure we keep corrections/confiscations exceptionally rare.

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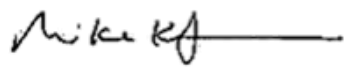
Prom

Last night we enjoyed a wonderful celebration of five years progress, growth and teamwork with our departing Year 11 pupils. In four short years we will be celebrating the same milestone with our current Year 7. Lots to learn along the way - but I always remind the pupils that the time will go incredibly fast. It is important to make each lesson and each experience count.

Finals Day

A huge well done to our Y7 Rounders Team on reaching yesterday's finals day. A brilliant performance from these exceptional young women who showed great resilience and grace when beaten by a similarly brilliant Wickersley team. As always, we are as proud of their behaviour, manners and team spirit as we could be of any result, win or lose. Miss Carroll may be getting the glitter out of her hair for some time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kilgannon', followed by a horizontal line.

Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal