

Aston Academy

Aughton Road, Swallownest

Sheffield S26 4SF

t: 0114 287 2171

e: info@astonacademy.org

w: astonacademy.org

Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

11 September 2026

Dear parent/carer,

The end of our first full week together has arrived, and, on behalf of my staff, I would like to thank you and praise the students for a tremendous start to the academic year. The students have transitioned back into school very well, adapting quickly to updated routines and rising to the challenge of our high expectations. A special mention goes to some of our youngest and oldest students. We have been very impressed with the resilience, positive attitudes and work ethic of our Year 7 and Year 11 students so far. Keep it up!

We finish the week today with a very important day, perhaps more so for our parents and carers: it's school photo day. I am sure hair, smiles and top buttons will be perfect!

For parents new to the school, I have sent a Friday letter every week since I was appointed Principal in September 2024. The idea is to shine a spotlight on some of the things that have happened in the academy that week, celebrate successes, and share the progress and development that happens behind the scenes. Most of all, it is intended to 'open the doors' to our academy, improve communication, and strengthen that sense of belonging between our families and the school.

It's a two-way process, and I am always very pleased to receive communication from you, our parents and carers, especially about the amazing successes our children are achieving outside of school in sport, the arts, charity work, badges and awards etc.

For example, over the summer I learned about our Year 8 student, Tyler Killoran. Tyler was personally invited to represent the UK at the first international tournament in China, where he was the only Forms competitor from the UK and delivered an outstanding performance, winning all four of his categories. His achievement makes him the first and only International ISKA Asia-Pacific athlete to win four gold medals at the event. Alongside his competitive success, Tyler proudly promoted the Karate Kids Kicking Cancer project, speaking with athletes from around the world and representing both himself and the school with distinction. Very proud Principal moment!

As a school and staff body, we arrive in September full of hope and confidence for the future and for the opportunities, care and teaching we can offer all our students. Our April Ofsted report confirmed the positive direction of the school and focused our attention on the remaining areas for development. In addition, our summer GCSE results were the best the school has achieved since COVID.

In many student attainment measures, we can be viewed as a leading secondary school across Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield. I am most proud of the balance we have created between academic attainment and the opportunities, extracurricular activities, clubs and personal development experiences we offer our students. We strive to be the school where our children feel known, where they belong, and where they can achieve and thrive because of the opportunities our staff provide.



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

Part of the **ACET** family

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

We are looking forward to a busy and productive first half term. For example, next week we will be welcoming parents and carers into the academy for the Year 11 Information Evening on Monday 14th September, followed by an exciting event on Thursday for our Year 10 parents and carers, which will act as the launch of our Year 10 work experience programme.

It would be great to see parents/carers in the academy. It is very important to us that we build strong relationships with our families, and events such as these help make that happen.

It is important that our students arrive at school each day ready to learn. This includes bringing a suitable school bag, capable of safely carrying the equipment and books needed for the day, along with the necessary stationery to enable them to access every lesson fully.

When students enter school each day from 8.10am, our pastoral teams are there to welcome them through the gates. They say good morning, check uniform standards and ensure that each child is ready for the day ahead.

Part of this welcome includes students showing staff that they have brought stationery to use in lessons. From 8.10am to 8.30am each morning, we have a stationery shop open that sells black pens, pencils, rulers and whiteboard pens. All items cost 10p.

Students who are missing equipment will visit the stationery shop before 8.30am to purchase the items they need. The cost will be charged to the ParentPay account, which can be credited via the 'General Stationery' account. I would hope that £2 would be more than enough to cover a full academic year of lost or forgotten equipment, equivalent to 20 items.

If there are areas of school provision or academy life that you would like me to focus on in future Friday letters, please let me know. I want these communications to be informative and useful for you, our parents and carers.

Finally, I read the quote below this week and liked the sentiment behind it. It fills me with focus and excitement for the academic year ahead. I wish all our students and staff a successful academic year.

"September is the Monday of the year: a fresh start, a clean slate, and a chance to do things even better."

Have a wonderful Friday & weekend.

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

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

Company number: 07577113

Aston Community Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales