

Aston Academy

Aughton Road, Swallownest

Sheffield S26 4SF

t: 0114 287 2171

e: info@astonacademy.org

w: astonacademy.org



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

Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

2 October 2026

Dear parent/carers,

As we reach the end of what is traditionally one of the busiest and most rewarding weeks of the term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights from the week and thank you for your continued support.

On Monday evening, we opened our doors to welcome prospective Year 5 and Year 6 students and their families to our Open Evening. It was wonderful to meet and speak with so many families, including those who already have children at Aston Academy, former students who are now parents themselves, and families who are considering joining our school community for the first time.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the evening was seeing over 100 students volunteer their time to represent the academy. This included several former Year 11 students who returned to support the event after leaving us this summer. If you truly want to understand the day-to-day experience of life at a school, there is no better source than the students themselves. We therefore ensured that plenty of students were available to answer questions, share their experiences and give families an authentic insight into life at Aston Academy.

Put simply, if there is anything that will help you make an informed decision, please ask us. Come and visit us. At Aston Academy, we want families to feel part of our community long before their child joins us.

Choosing a secondary school is about far more than selecting a building. It is about choosing a community that will help shape your child over the next five years and beyond.

On Tuesday evening, we welcomed our Year 8 parents and carers for our Year 8 Information Evening. This provided a fantastic opportunity to thank families for their support during their child's first year at Aston Academy, share important information about Year 8, and launch our exciting work-shadowing opportunities for students.

Although we are a large school, we are a school where every student is known.

Our staff often talk about "Team Aston", and that team is made up of students, staff and families working together with a shared purpose: ensuring that every young person achieves their very best. I firmly believe that the strongest schools are built upon strong partnerships with families. When school and home, work together, incredible things can happen.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who have signed up to support our Easyfundraising page.

We launched this initiative to help us provide even more rewards and enrichment opportunities for our students. I am delighted to share that this week we have surpassed the £1,000 fundraising milestone. Thank you for your amazing support.

Importantly, 100% of the funds raised through Easyfundraising will be used to support student rewards and recognition. Our students achieve fantastic things every day, and we want to ensure that we continue to celebrate and reward their successes.

If you have not yet signed up, please consider doing so. It is completely free and makes a real difference. Once registered, you can raise donations for Aston Academy whenever you shop online through more than 8,000 retailers, at no extra cost to you. In addition, when you raise your first £5 in donations, Easyfundraising will match it.

[EasyFundraising Link](#)

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A reminder that the academy will be closed to students on **Friday 9 October** for a staff INSET day.

We have chosen to hold this professional development day at this point in the term as it provides an excellent opportunity for teaching staff and leaders to review our classroom practice and evaluate the priorities we established at the beginning of the academic year.

A key area of focus has been ensuring that every student experiences consistently high-quality teaching in every lesson. In education, this is often referred to as Wave 1 Teaching. Put simply, this is the quality of teaching, adaptation and support provided by the classroom teacher to ensure that all students can achieve success.

For example, some students may need additional support to understand a new concept, while others may face barriers linked to a specific educational need or gaps in prior learning. During the INSET day, staff will further develop strategies to overcome these barriers and ensure that every student can thrive in the classroom.

Ultimately, when students make progress, enjoy their learning and are equipped with the tools they need to succeed, they become confident young people who are ready to make a positive difference to their communities in the future.

Thursday marks the beginning of Black History Month. This year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities", invites us to recognise and celebrate the individuals whose everyday contributions shape, support and sustain communities across the United Kingdom.

I have included below a selection of local events that families may find interesting:

- **Winter Garden Celebrations**
Friday 2 October to Sunday 4 October (11:00am-4:00pm)
The Sheffield Winter Garden will host three days of music, storytelling, food stalls and fashion. The event is free and open to all.
- **Roots and Futures Exhibition**
18-21 October (10:00am-4:00pm)
Also hosted at the Winter Garden, this anti-racist cultural heritage exhibition includes an interactive community drop-in session on Sunday 18 October from 12:00pm to 4:00pm.
- **Community Civic Service**
Sunday 25 October at 6:00pm
Hosted at Sheffield Cathedral and led by Dr Delroy Hall, this event features Black-led church speakers, gospel music and an Act of Remembrance. Entry is free and open to all.
- **Rotherham Community Hubs**
Local venues, including Mowbray Gardens Library and Kimberworth Library, will be hosting poetry, storytelling and family community workshops throughout the month.

As always, the combination of **home, school and student working together** is what makes the greatest difference.

Thank you for your continued support of Aston Academy and for everything you do to support your child's education.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

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