



Aston Academy Year 10 - NEWSLETTER

EASTER Term 2

What's the news? What have year 10 been up to this term? What is coming up after Easter?

This term has been an exceptionally busy one for year 10:

- 1. Year 10 students have contributed to the wider life of the school representing our year group and our community in a range of events.**
- 2. We have worked to embed our 5 core values through assembly programs, and share with you the work our students have been involved in to support charities in our local community.**
- 3. ERIC (everyone reading in class) - Lots of students are really getting involved with this!**
- 4. A reminder of our Personal Development Pledge and suggestions of ways our students can use after the Easter break productively by engaging in a range of activities available through the local authority.**
- 5. Finally We would like to wish you all a fantastic Holiday!**

Meet the Year 10 team!

Assistant Vice Principal and teacher of English - Mr Kilgannon

Pastoral Learning Lead and teacher of Science - Miss Clay

Learning Progress Manager - Miss Birks

Aston's 5 core values at work



Resilience



Pride



Respect



Ambition



Responsibility

Much work has been done this term in tutor time, lessons and assemblies to develop students' understanding of Aston's 5 core values. You will no doubt have heard our students talk about our shared commitment to doing things 'The Aston Way'. By this we mean that we will all work together, to take **pride** in our school, our work and our environment, take **responsibility** for our learning and actions and their impact on others, treat others around us with **respect** and equality, show **resilience** in the face of difficulty and challenge so that we can grow and progress and to develop a growth mindset with **ambition**, having high expectations of ourselves and others and commitment to our personal and academic development.

Assemblies this term have covered:

1. Setting goals and how to achieve them
2. Keeping safe online
3. Holocaust Memorial day
4. Money, risk, finance and debt management
5. E-cigarettes and Vaping
6. Apprenticeships and Careers
7. Resolving Conflict

Enrichment and Trips



We are yet again very proud of the the many year 10 students who have represented our year group on trips and in sporting activities this term!

Year 10 Crucible Theatre Trip:

The GCSE English Literature students attended a trip to see Arthur Miller's dark and thrilling play *The Crucible* at The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield on Thursday 14th March 2024. While *The Crucible* is not studied as part of our GCSE course, the themes of witchcraft and deception link with the students' study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and an understanding of this modern classic will really enhance the students' appreciation of plot, staging and characterisation. It was an electrifying night of theatre and especially encouraging for students who are considering further study of Literature at A-level. Look out for further theatre trips in the coming term - students are very keen so secure places as soon as possible.

KS4 Girls Netball Rotherham Cup Final:

Year 10 Netballers played incredibly yet again to be crown KS4 Rotherham schools Netball champions on 6th March! They always perform and represent Aston Academy to an amazing standard.

These students also went through to the Wickersley Netball Finals Day! The team dominated their semi-final against Wath to comfortably progress onto the final against Wickersley. In a repeat of the last years final, the girls knew that they would be pushed all the way by a very strong opponent. Captained by Bel S, the team gave every effort to try and retain their trophy. All players were outstanding but Eve E showed great resilience to battle on despite extreme pressure from their opposing players. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be this year as Wickersley claimed the trophy. However, the girls will be fighting hard to become champions again in Y11.



Year 10 students again and again have put these values into action and we have been pleased to celebrate them at Proud Thursday's when students have been able to present an excellent piece of work to the team and have received certificates in recognition of their efforts.

In this weeks top one hundred rewards assembly where students with the highest number of positive conduct points were entered for a series of random draws.

Prizes are:

2 x £25 Meadowhall Vouchers for 2 lucky students in the Top 100.

2 x £10 Meadowhall Vouchers for 2 lucky students in the Top 50.

2 x £5 Meadowhall Vouchers for 2 lucky students in the Top 10.

That means the Top 10 students have 6 chances to win!

A huge well done to all students who have been involved in any of these rewards we truly do appreciate everything you do.

Another way in which are students have fostered the value of respect and tolerance this term is through contributing to our equality and LGBT+ student working groups and through representing their tutor groups at the school council. Their feedback has led to a wider food offer being provided for lunches to curriculum development in PSHE, to spaces for indoor and outdoor recreation and socialising being organised at lunch and breaks. We are incredibly proud of their maturity and their contribution to making school a better place for all students.

One value we focus on particularly in the Easter season is 'responsibility'. We encourage our students to remember the challenges many people face while others of us enjoy a time of celebration. Our students have again this year excelled in their contribution to raising money for our charitable causes. Thanks to their efforts we are well on our way to reaching our £4000 fundraising target for Sheffield Hallam Children's Hospital.



Behaviour, Punctuality and Attendance



So far this year we have had an absolutely huge number of achievement points collected by Y10 students! We are so proud of all the hard work and effort students have put in to achieve these, gaining points for the 5 core values - Ambition, pride, respect, responsibility and resilience.

Attendance for Y10 currently stands at **85.2%** for this half term. Although this is great, we really need to make sure that students attend every day! We do understand there are genuine reasons to not be in school, but for the majority of our students, we can make more of an effort to be present in school every day. We should all be aiming for 96% attendance as a minimum!

A huge congratulations to 10M2 who had the best attendance in the year - they were rewarded on Thursday with a buffet to celebrate their resilience for getting into school!

It is very important that all of our students are also on time to each of their lessons. The beginning of the lesson is when our students consolidate their previous learning through "Do Now" activities. This ensures they make the best possible progress in each lesson. Over the past few weeks a number of our students have been using punctuality cards to help them monitor and take responsibility for their own time management when moving between lessons. These have been issued by form tutors and have shown to be effective in improving punctuality. However, there are still a number of students who have work to do on this next term.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the Academy in raising uniform standards over this past half term. In line with this, could we also ask for your support in ensuring your child is continuing to adhere to the academy uniform policy. This includes:

- Wearing a clip on tie correctly on their top button
- Wearing appropriate approved school trousers or skirt
- Wearing academy blazer every day (not carrying this in their bag)
- Having suitable smart school shoes
- Not wearing excessive jewellery

Students should also have a school bag and planner every day as they are responsible for bringing their own books and equipment so they are prepared and ready to learn at the beginning of each lesson. Y10 will soon be "stepping up" as the current Y11 leave after their exams. This is an exciting time and, as Y10 enter their exam year, it is important our students are ready and prepared in order to make best progress towards their GCSEs.

ERIC - Everyone reading in class



Y10 students have really been getting involved with ERIC this term. It is lovely to see students reading in class as well as completing the ERIC challenge where they have been attending book club and the library, reading out loud and discussing books with adults to name a few!

We have also held a reading week where students looked at different texts in every lesson. We really want to encourage a passion for reading here at Aston!

Personal Development Pledge

We have been continuing with the 'Personal Development Pledge'. This has just been re-launched and students will have a booklet that they can fill in during tutor time to tick off what they have achieved. We want our students to leave school not just with the best qualifications they can but with life experience, self motivation, commitment to their community and to their personal growth - in short to be 'life ready'. Our personal development pledge is aimed to help support our young people in developing these qualities. Some of the tasks are small and easily gained, others require more dedication. We would encourage all our students to make achieving their bronze, silver and gold awards in the personal development pledge one of their New Year's resolutions. Personal development extends beyond school however, so with this in mind we would like to make you aware of some of the opportunities and activities available in the local authority for our students to be involved in over the Easter holidays. Activities range from swimming, sport, yoga and mindfulness to socialising at one of the activity hubs.

The Personal Development Pledge.				
Resilience	Pride	Respect	Ambition	Responsibility
Attend an after school club for at least 6 weeks.	Represent Aston Academy at a sporting or other event.	Support with a litter picking campaign over a series of lunchtimes or after school sessions.	Set yourself a target within a subject area and record it. Provide evidence of having met this target.	Volunteer in a tutor group with students younger than you (listen to them read or help them with a task).
Read aloud in class so the teacher can identify you as a confident reader.	Attend the Proud Thursday table 5 times on 5 separate occasions.	Help out a neighbour, a member of your community or extended family.	Demonstrate an improved score/percentage across 2 summative assessment tasks.	Receive an email or a postcard home in which an adult praises you for showing responsibility.
Achieve 100% attendance for at least 1 half term.	Choose a piece of work that you're proud of and be able to talk in detail about it and explain why.	Evidence how you have shown consideration or value for a member of our Academy's community.	Attend a Careers event and be able to detail how it helped you plan your future.	Support with planning or delivering an Assembly for your Year Group.
<p>PASS Complete 1 activity in each section</p> <p>MERIT Complete 9+ activities across all 5 sections</p> <p>DISTINCTION Complete 13+ activities across all 5 sections</p>				
 <p style="text-align: right;">Vision - Be Exceptional </p>				

First day back, 15th April 2024



The Y10 Consultation Evening will take place on Monday 15th April 2024 between 3.30pm -6.30pm in school. The one-to-one conversations with your child's class teachers will provide an important opportunity for you to discuss their current progress for each subject and we strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend.

The best way to communicate with us



We are working hard to improve communication with parents and carers. The means of communication we are utilising at Aston Academy include :

Email - info@astonacademy.org is an email inbox which is supervised by a group of staff who will ensure your query/concern is relayed to the most relevant person/department. Please ensure your query is specific so you can receive an appropriate response. Any general comments or opinions may not always receive a response.

Attendance - If you are reporting an absence for your child or need to speak to the Attendance team please email via the Attendance@astonacademy.org address.

Faculty Emails:

Art: art@astonacademy.org

Business, Computing and Economics: BCE@astonacademy.org

DT: DT@astonacademy.org

English: english@astonacademy.org

Humanities: humanities@astonacademy.org

Maths: maths@astonacademy.org

MFL: MFL@astonacademy.org

Music: music@astonacademy.org

PE: P.E@astonacademy.org

RE: RPE@astonacademy.org

Science: science@astonacademy.org

Admin. Emails:

SEND: send@astonacademy.org

Uniform: uniform@astonacademy.org

Safeguarding: safeguarding@astonacademy.org

Work Experience: workexperience@astonacademy.org

Exams: exams@astonacademy.org

ERIC: eric@astonacademy.org

Telephone Calls - Due to teaching commitments staff may not always be able to respond immediately to your call. Therefore the Reception team will take the details and pass on to the relevant member of staff who will respond appropriately at their earliest convenience.

Social Media - We have Facebook and X accounts which are a means of sharing information. Any comments made on X or Facebook will be monitored but will not always receive a response. Any specific queries requiring a response must be relayed through the [info@](mailto:info@astonacademy.org) email address.

Face to Face Meeting - If you would like a face to face meeting to discuss any ongoing concerns please email your request using the [info@](mailto:info@astonacademy.org) email address and the Year team will be in touch. In the event that parents/carers arrive at the academy without an appointment, staff may not be able to meet due to teaching and classroom duty commitments.

Thanks and Well Wishes



Lastly the year 10 team would like to say a massive thank you to our many wonderful students, who have worked so hard this term and faced the developments we have made to raise standards with resilience. We are incredibly proud of you and your efforts. Each and every one of you has something great to offer our community and we are so glad to have you here with us at Aston. Also a huge thank you to our parents and carers who have supported our students in sporting fixtures, after school clubs, charitable events and much more. We fully appreciate your support, together we can make a difference.

We would like to wish you all a wonderful Easter break!