



Aston Academy Year 7 - NEWSLETTER

EASTER Term 2

What's the news? What have year 7 been up to this term?

This 2nd term has been an exceptionally busy one for year 7!

- 1. Year 7 students have contributed to the wider life of the school representing our year group and our community in a range of sporting, music and drama events.**
- 2. We have worked to embed our 5 core values, 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 7 team!



Assistant Vice Principal and teacher of English - Mrs Dowling

Pastoral Learning Lead y7 and teacher of Science - Miss Bayliss

Learning Progress Officer - Mr Gibson

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.



1 - Students at the Y7 dance festival this week showing many of our core values.

Contributors to the wider life of the school



We are yet again very proud of the the many year 7 students who have represented our year group in sporting activities this term!

Year 7 Girls' Sports hall Athletics South Yorkshire Final:

The final for this event was held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. The girls got the chance to compete at this amazing venue which is a training facility for numerous GB athletes. Each of the Year 7s competed in both a track and field event which tested various areas of athletic ability. The girls were amazing in all of the events and put a brilliant amount of effort in meaning they managed to come 3rd overall out of 4 boroughs representing South Yorkshire. The photo shows our students with their 3rd place medals (Maisie, Halle, Kezia, Darcie, Skyla, Emily, Maddie and Miya).

Year 7 Boys' Rotherham Schools Cup Final:

After winning three matches in the group stages, quarter and semi-finals of the cup, our Year 7 Boys team progressed to the final of the Rotherham Schools Cup. A huge occasion at Wickersley School for the team to showcase their talent in front of hundreds of spectators. Unfortunately, the result didn't go in favour of our Year 7s even after a very close game in terrible conditions against a highly talented team. Our Year 7s gave their absolute all and were unlucky not to score in the match. The team showed

outstanding spirit and professionalism throughout the game and Mr Otter was incredibly proud of the all and hope to reach the final again next year (Max, Frankie, Brad, Oscar, Jack F, Jack W, Jacob, Gene, Lucas, Alfie, Wilson, Oliver and Toby).

Year 7 Girls Netball Rotherham Cup Final:

Upon winning a tournament prior to the final, the Year 7 Girls' Netball team managed to have the chance to represent Aston Academy at the Rotherham Schools Cup Final held at Wickersley on Saturday the 23rd of March. They played in the final against a talented team and narrowly missed out on a chance to play a final match. Both Mrs Ward and Miss Hollingworth were incredibly proud of the girls and their efforts representing Aston Academy (Kezia, Hadley, Emily, Jasmine, Lalia, Neve, Halle, Evie, Maia and Indie).

Year 7 Dance:

Throughout this half term, each class has been learning a class Dance within one of their PE lessons. Each class had learnt and performed a 2 minute routine to a song of their choice. Each class has then peer assessed other groups from Year 7 resulting in four finalists which were then independently judged by a Dance specialist grading each Dance of areas of unison, complexity and as an overall performance. The winning class was Year 7X - PE1, a mixture of both boys and girls taught by Mr Otter; he was incredibly proud of the effort put in by everyone in his class. Well done to everyone who performed across Year 7.





Year 7 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 week's top one hundred rewards assembly where our students with the highest number of positive conduct points were entered for a series of random draws which gave them the opportunity to receive either a 25 pound, ten pound or 5 pound gift voucher as a prize for their excellent efforts and attendance and in the headteachers praise assemblies where those who have gone over and above were celebrated and recognised for their contributions. 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 our 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 and Attendance



So far this year we have had an absolutely huge number of achievement points collected by Y7 students! over **57000**! 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.

Students in Y7 have all been given a code of conduct card so they can collect points off staff outside of lessons to add to their achievement points. When they have completed the card they can hand it in to reception to be added to a prize draw!

Students who were in the top 100 for achievement points were put into a draw for prizes that were awarded on the last week of term.

Attendance for Y7 currently stands at **94.1%** for this half term. Although this is great, we really need to make sure that students attend every day! This figure has dropped from 94.6% at Christmas. 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 7M1 who had the best attendance in the year - they were rewarded on Monday with a buffet to celebrate their resilience for getting into school!

Good Eggs!



We have seen our Year 7 students flourish this term and to reward this we have asked faculties to select some 'Good Eggs'. During our rewards assembly, these students will be given a gesture of our appreciation for their efforts and growth over the term. Staff have selected students for a number of reasons, including:

- Being positive role models
- Following the Aston Way
- Improvements in attitude, attainment and behaviour
- Showing kindness and good manners.

ERIC - Everyone reading in class



Y7 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!

Y7 students have also completed their second NGRT test to look at their current reading level. Developing literacy and reading ability is fundamental to a pupil's ability to access the curriculum in secondary school. The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a standardised, termly assessment that reliably measures reading skills against the national average to help you get to the root of any problems precisely and quickly. NGRT provides information about sentence completion and comprehension skills allowing you to identify where difficulties lie. Being a termly assessment allows for regular monitoring of reading progress and measuring the impact of intervention, and a pupil's reading ability can be benchmarked using the Standardised Age Score (SAS).

Students have also completed their SPARX Reader Test and reading homework will be set online until summer via the SPARX programme.

Our 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.
PASS Complete 1 activity in each section		MERIT Complete 9+ activities across all 5 sections		DISTINCTION Complete 13+ activities across all 5 sections
  Vision - Be Exceptional 				

International Women's Day



Celebrated annually on March 8th, Aston Academy wasn't going to miss out on opportunity to join the United Nations in celebrating under the theme "Invest In Women". We raised funds by selling cakes and biscuits and by asking our staff to wear purple at work for the day, and donating for the privilege. (Purple was the colour first adopted by the Suffragette Movement and then by International Women's Day). All funding raised went to Sheffield Women's Aid, a non-profit local organisation, who work to ensure that women receive protection, support and respect when in need of their services. We proudly sent them a donation of £234! Our website also features testimonies from staff regarding women who inspired them

personally, in homage to International Women's Day 2024. The photograph shows our plum-perfect Maths Faculty - (nearly) all sporting a purple garment for the day!

First day back, 15th April 2024



To assist you in planning your family holidays and appointments please see below key dates affecting this year group. (Full term dates are available on the Academy website).

First day of Term 3 - Monday 15th April - *we welcome all students back into the Academy.*

Bank Holiday - *Monday 6th May 2024*

May Half Term - *Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024*

Last day of the academic year for students - *Tuesday 23rd July 2024*

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 7 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!