

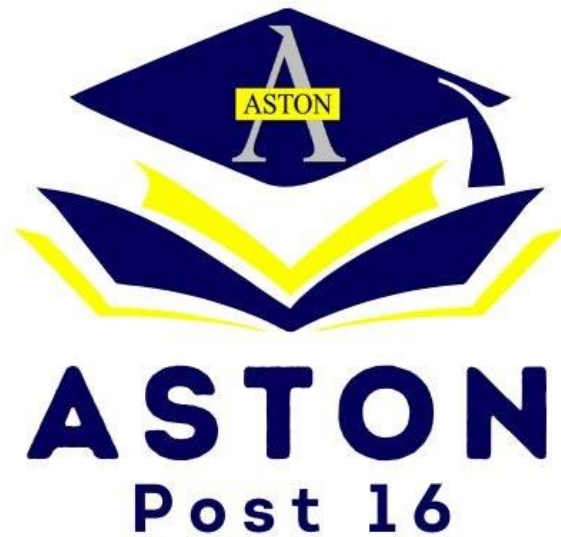
# Post 16 Newsletter Half Term 4



## Welcome

Hello. We are delighted to share the third Post 16 newsletter of the 2023-24 academic year.

It's been a busy term for both Y12 and Y13 with lots going on for both year groups. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Adams to the Post 16 team in January, who joined us as Assistant Vice Principal for Post 16. As we move into the final term of the year, we are only a few short weeks away from A Level examinations starting for Y13 and vocational examinations for Y12 courses. We wish all students the very best of luck in this important next stage of their Post 16 journey.



## What have we been up to in Term 2?

Term 2 has seen a range of enrichment and personal development opportunities for our students within Post 16. There has been some fantastic student achievements and we are really proud of the difference our students are making in school.

**Y13 Trial Exams-** Y13 have shown incredible resilience and ambition during their two trial exam weeks. They sat trial exams in each of their subject areas back in January and most recently in March. All students demonstrated great levels of responsibility and motivation, working hard to ensure they have the very best preparation for the summer exams.

**Level 3 Sports Leaders-** As part of the Y12 Cambridge Technical Sport Unit 2, our Level 3 Sport Leaders have been involved in planning and leading PE lessons to our Y7 students. The Y12 Sport students have made excellent progress during their 6 weeks leading lessons to the Y7s, they have worked hard to develop both their leadership skills and confidence and Mrs Miller is very proud of them.

**Gymnastics Club-** Well done to Y12 students Yasmin B, Erin C and Emily B for leading the KS3 extracurricular gymnastics after school this half term. They have been incredible and given expert coaching to a large number of KS3 students. This club will provide a new experience for many students and will support our Y12 students completing their Level 3 Sports Leaders award.

**Dance Volunteers-** 5 wonderful Y12 students have been involved in running the Rotherham Schools Inclusive Dance festival. This involved them choreographing and teaching a dance to students from across Rotherham, ready for them to perform at the festival. Yasmin B, Emily B, Eve R, Erin C and Jazmin

M showed outstanding leadership, patience, empathy and communication skills whilst teaching their dance. They ensured students were ready and feeling confident to perform it at the festival which took place at The Academy Theatre in Barnsley on Tuesday 26th March. Well done girls, you should be really proud of the positive impact you had on the young people involved.

**Mentoring-** We have over 30 Y12 students completing mentoring with Y7, Y8 and Y9 students supporting them with mental health concerns, peer issues, reading interventions and numeracy interventions. We have received some fantastic feedback on the impact this mentoring is having on children in lower school. Well done to all involved.

**Post 16 Easter Egg Collection-** We were delighted to be able to donate over 150 Easter eggs, sweets and craft activities to Sheffield Childrens Hospital this week. Mrs Ward was able to visit the hospital and see first hand the positive impact our donation will make to the many young children who will be in hospital over the Easter period. We are focusing on 'making a difference' in Post 16 and this was a small token from our Academy which will make a difference for these children.

**Post 16 Coffee Morning-** On Monday 25th March, Post 16 organised a coffee morning for staff and Y12 and Y13 students, many homebaked items were donated and we managed to raise over £150 for Sheffield Childrens Hospital. A big thank you to Adam I in Y12 for baking and donating some delicious cookies for the event as well as giving up his break and lunch time to run the event. Alyssa T was the winner of the 'Guess the name of the Bunny' competition and was the very excited recipient of the Bunny cake, named 'Rebecca Rabbit'. Thank you to Mrs Ellis, our wonderful Technology Assistant for baking and donating this cake. Well done to all students who got involved and came along to purchase cakes and/or make a donation.

**Y13 Tutoring-** A huge well done to Liv M in Y13 who is mentoring a Y11 student to support her passing her Maths GCSE. It is wonderful to see this tutoring going on after school in the common room. Well done, Liv.

**Y13 Biology-** The Y13 A level Biologists have spent a day at Sheffield Hallam University. They were able to practice and develop their laboratory skills, using pipettes and other equipment that measure extremely small volumes very precisely. They were asked to use PCR, DNA fingerprinting and blood analysis to choose a donor for a kidney transplant patient, from 3 relatives. All of our students carried out the procedures carefully enough to be able to correctly identify the most suitable donor. Following the morning in the lab, the students attended a lecture from one of the leading researchers in CT scanning, highlighting the applications of the technology, and how it requires scientists from different disciplines to work together.

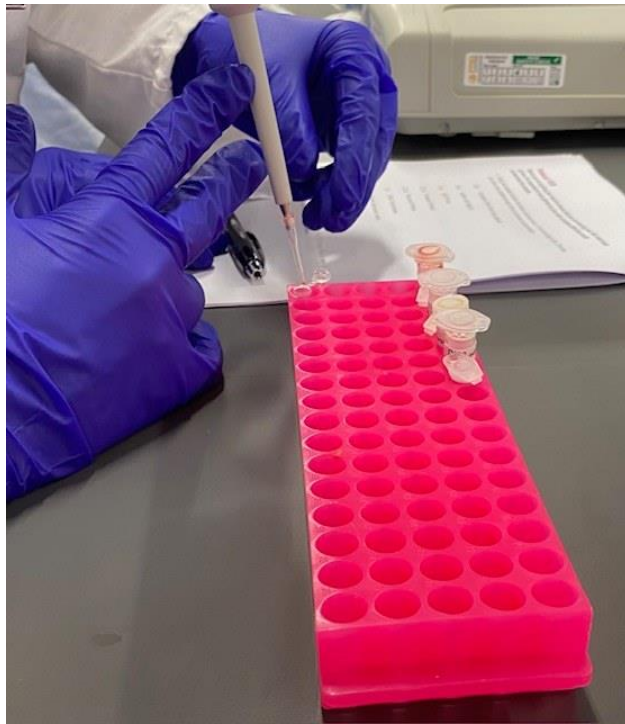
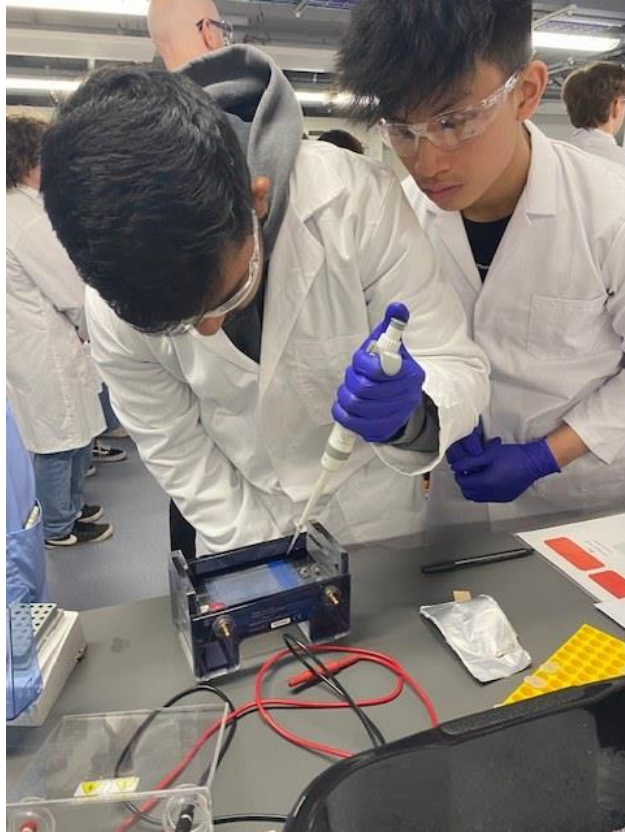
**International Student-** We were pleased to welcome our newest International student Giulia to Aston in January. Giulia is from Italy and is studying with us until the end of the year. Giulia has been welcomed by students in Post 16 and it has been great to see students sharing stories and experiences with each other, whilst learning about a new culture and hopefully some small bits of Italian. *Ben Fatto!*

# DANCE FESTIVAL ASTON



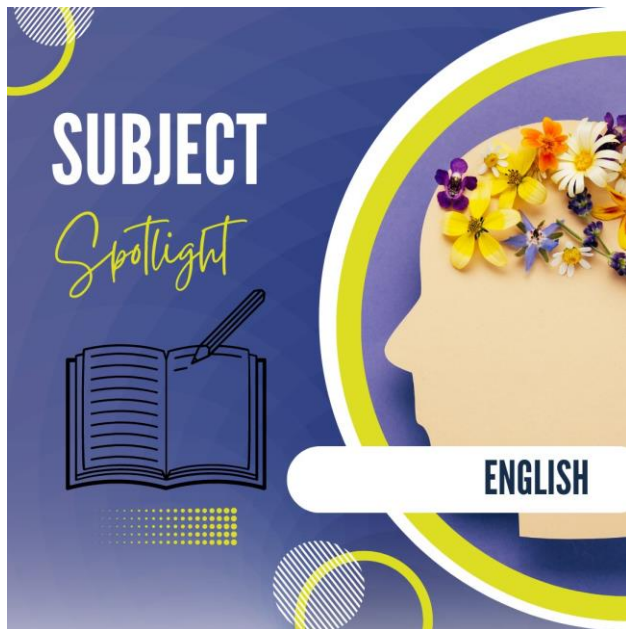








Subject Spotlight- English Language and English Literature



**English Language**

Throughout this term, Y13 have been working hard on their coursework, from an investigation into how the media portrays popular celebrities, to analysing classical historical speeches. Students have thrived in creating a detailed language study of their choice. Students have then been revising all of the topics they have studied throughout Y12 and Y13 and had their knowledge put to the test with an array of trial exams, preparing them nicely for their A Levels- well done, Y13. Y12 have been analysing language used in the 21st century, showing off their incredible knowledge of all things social media! Alongside this, students have been discussing issues relating to varieties of English, including code switching, convergence, divergence.

### ***English Literature***

For the first term, Year 12 began their Literature course by studying King Lear, where they examined aspects of tragedy. They also studied the poetry of a contemporary poet, Carol Ann Duffy, developing their understanding of examining literature through a Feminist literary critical lens. Currently, Y12 are studying two works of drama: The Duchess of Malfi, written in 1612 and A Streetcar Named Desire, written in 1947. The students are comparing how gender politics are presented in each text, further developing their skill in reading through a Feminist and Marxist literary lens. Year 13 spent the first term studying the poetry of Philip Larkin ( an anthology of poems to compare with Carol Ann Duffy) and a collection of poems from William Blake's Songs of Innocence, Songs of Experience. Along side this, they are studying a range of prose extracts and poetry written between 1880- 1939. In addition, Y13 students are working on their coursework - an individual investigation and comparison between Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Karen Fowler's We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves.

## Term 2 Praise

We ended our second term with an Easter Celebration Briefing, where all students were treated to a cookie from the Post 16 team. Each course nominated their 'Learner of the Term' and we were delighted to present these students with a certificate and small Easter treat. We also had Amazon vouchers up for grabs for students with excellent attendance and punctuality records in Term 2.

A huge well done to the following students who received our 'Learner of the Term' awards:

**English Language-** Alice H (Y12) and Amelia W (Y13)

**English Literature-** Jenny H (Y12) and Lucy F (Y13)

**Maths-** Taha A (Y12) and Panashe C (Y13)

**Further Maths-** Ashton J (Y12) and Man Cho L (Y13)

**Biology-** Jenny H (Y12) and Molly D (Y13)

**Chemistry-** Ethan C (Y12) and Panashe C (Y13)

**Physics-** Ashton J (Y12) and William S (Y13)



**Art, Craft and Design-** Denisa P (Y12)

**Computer Science-** Matthew B (Y12) and Tyler D (Y13)

**Business Studies-** Lily P (Y13)

**History-** Alice H (Y12) and Amelia C (Y13)

**Philosophy-** Elisia E (Y12)

**PE-** Lucy B (Y12) and Caitlin S (Y13)

**Politics-** Luke N (Y12) and Matthew F (Y13)

**Psychology-** Alana B (Y12) and Rebecca F (Y13)

**Sociology-** Holly G (Y12) and Annabel O (Y13)

**Criminology-** Lewis C (Y12)

**Health and Social Care (single)-** Jazmin M (Y12) and Jasmin B (Y13)

**Health and Social Care (double)-** Josh M (Y12) and Erin D (Y13)

**Sport and Physical Activity (single)-** Ruby L (Y12) and Daisy H (Y13)

**Sport and Physical Activity (double)-** Zack M (Y12) and Ethan T (Y13)

**Applied Science-** Josh M (Y12) and Daisy G (Y13)

**Forensic Science-** Sienna R (Y12) and Abi O (Y13)

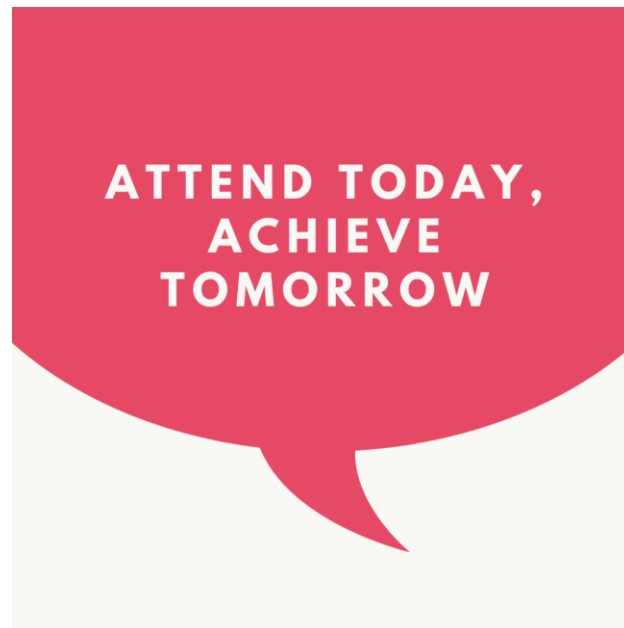
### **Attendance and Punctuality Awards:**

With the current focus on improving attendance and punctuality in Post 16, we wanted to take the opportunity to reward the students that are consistently attending and being punctual. Our attendance and punctuality awards get 'reset' each term, giving every student a fair chance of being 'in it to win it'. We conducted a prize draw with all students achieving 97%+ attendance since January and all students with 0 minutes late to lesson since January with a number of Amazon vouchers up for grabs. Everyone is back in the draw for Term 3.

Well done to all students who received nominations for 97%+ attendance and 0 minutes late to lesson. Keep up the hard work in term 3.



## Term 3 Focus- Minimising Lost Learning Time



Since our return to school in January, the Post 16 team have continued to keep a close eye on attendance and punctuality to lessons. We have increased communication with parents/carers to ensure that you are kept fully informed regarding your child's attendance and punctuality. Research suggests there is a clear correlation between attendance and success in A Level and Vocational courses therefore it is vital that students are maintaining good attendance and punctuality as every minute of learning is essential to their success.

Whilst, we do understand that there are genuine reasons for absence and illness, we would like to reiterate the importance of good attendance and punctuality records for our students.

We are no longer using the Post 16 phone or checking emails for attendance. Please can all contact regarding attendance, including absences and medical appointments reported via the attendance office on 01142 872171.

### Kooth

Given the high pressure of A Level examinations, we wanted to take this opportunity to share Kooth with you again.

The Kooth team are here to provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The whole team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who want to help you.

They offer:

- Free, anonymous support: our chat service is free, and you don't even have to give your name.
- Real people, not bots: the professionals you speak with in our chat service are real people who want to listen to you.

- A safe space to talk: the Kooth chat service is a safe space for support accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychology (BACP).

You can reach out to Kooth by live chat or message on their website.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

The following link provides answers to some FAQ on Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/parent-faqs>



## Important Dates for Next Term

Monday 15th April- Welcome back!

Thursday 2nd May- Y13 Leavers Celebration at 1.30pm

Thursday 9th May- Y13 A Level examinations begin!

Thursday 9th May- Y12 Vocational Exams begin

Thursday 6th June- Final deadline to accept UCAS offers (Y13)

Friday 7th June- UCAS Discovery Event (Y12)

Friday 21st June- Final A Level Exam

Monday 24th June- Y12 trial exams begin

Monday 1st July- Y12 Cambridge Trip

Thursday 15th August- A Level results day



Happy Easter!





Finally, we would like to share our ongoing thanks for your continued support and congratulate our Post 16 students on another excellent term. We look forward to continued success moving into the summer term.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Adams, Mrs Ward, Mr Hall and Miss Layden