



**Aston Academy Year 9
Term 2**

NEWSLETTER

What's new? What have year 9 been up to this term?



The Spring term has been a busy one :

1. We have made some big decisions this term, starting the process of selecting our options for GCSEs and beginning to think about different careers that are available when we leave school.
2. We have begun our training for future examinations, through successfully completing our year 9 summative assessments in JCQ exam conditions.
3. Students have participated in a range of enrichment experiences including a recent trip to the Holocaust Memorial Centre -Beth Shalom.
4. We have continued to promote our 5 core values, and share with you the exciting opportunities coming up for students to take greater responsibility within the academy.
5. Year 9 students continue to contribute to the wider life of the school representing our year group in recent sporting events.
6. A reminder about our first day back and priorities for the summer term
7. and a reminder about the best way to communicate with us

8. Finally we would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter.

The journey begins - Planning for our future and Big decisions



Option A (Choose ONE subject)	Option B (Choose ONE preference)
Geography	Art
History	Business Studies
French	Child Care
German	Computer Science
Spanish	Dance
	Drama
	Engineering
	French
	Geography
	German

1 - The year team would like to thank all parents and students for your positive engagement in the year 9's options process. It was lovely to see so many of you attend the options presentation and to have so many mature conversations with year 9 students about their aspirations for the future and plans to make a positive start to their GCSEs. The online application process worked extremely well and has now closed. Notification of what options students have been allocated will be sent out during the next half term. This is an exciting time for our young people as they begin to take more responsibility for their own learning journey and we look forward to supporting them as they enter the next stage of their education.



2 - As part of the PSHE curriculum and assembly programme we have begun to think about future careers. We aim to broaden students' awareness of the vast range of different careers available, for example visiting speakers from the NHS have led a variety of assemblies to inform students of the many varied roles they offer from healthcare professionals, to finance, to prosthetics, to IT based careers. This is just a starting point. Over the next two years students will have access to one to one meetings with our careers advisor, work experience opportunities and careers fayres. We would encourage any parents who have experience in delivering training in their field of expertise or who feel they can contribute to our careers programme to email in to info@astonacademy.org.

Practice Makes Perfect



We would like to celebrate and commend the resilience and excellent standards demonstrated by year 9 in the recent Standardised Summative Assessments. For the very first time, year 9 experienced completing their assessments in exam conditions. This is an essential student training exercise. As we move into GCSE courses in year 10 students need to be fully aware of and understand JCQ expectations for students sitting public examinations. They need to understand the procedures for entry and exit of exam venues, requirements for equipment, the role of invigilators and much more. As a year team we

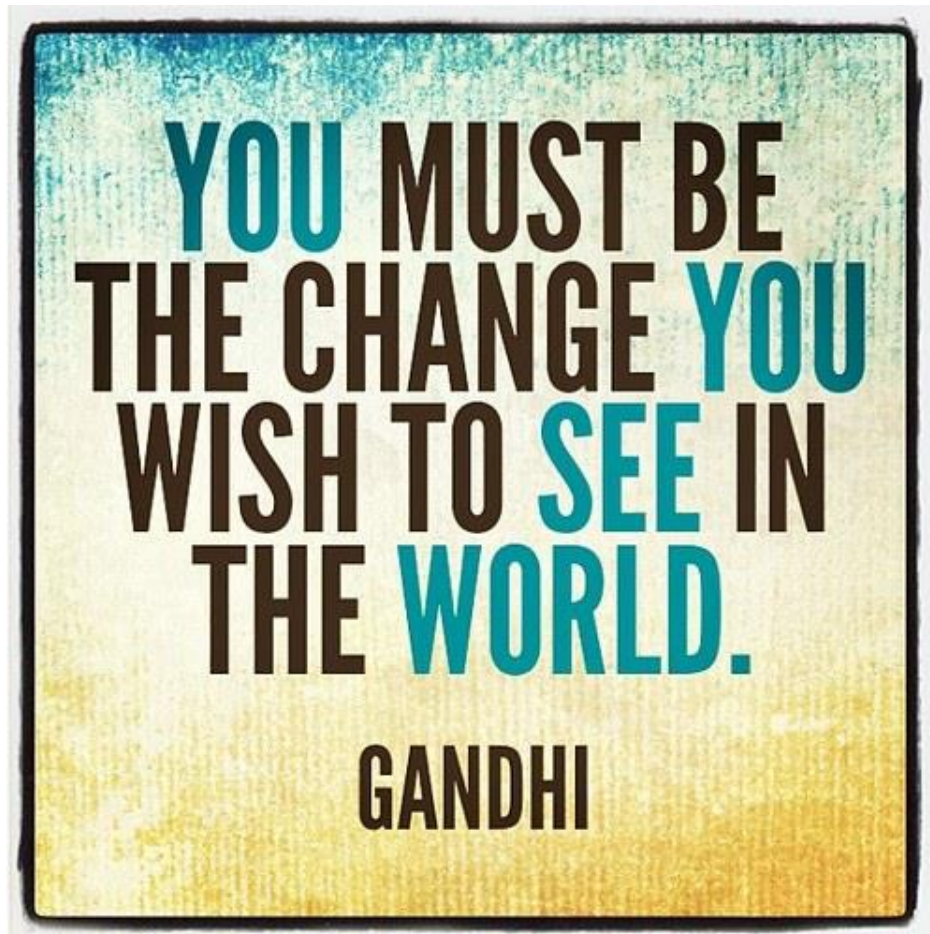
were absolutely delighted with how the students rose to this challenge. Year 9 were absolutely SUPERB in the assessment venues! A huge well done to you all, we were incredibly proud of you.

Learning for Life - enrichment opportunities



We would like to share with you how extremely proud we were this week of our year 9 students who visited Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Newark. This trip, organised by the RPE faculty, is an experience which hundreds of Aston students have gained from over the last 15 years. It provides our young people with opportunity to reflect on this dark period in human history, to develop empathy for and understanding of the suffering humans have at times caused one another, in the hope that through raising awareness we can prevent such events in the future. Students had the the chance to visit the exhibition centre to learn about the history of the Holocaust, the chance to reflect in the memorial gardens and the opportunity to hear a survivor/person touched by the Holocaust tell their story and explain the impact it had on them and their families' lives. We were so proud of year 9 who behaved maturely throughout, showing consideration and respect for the seriousness of the subject matter. I know it will be an experience they will remember and would encourage you to discuss with them what they learned from the experience.

Aston's 5 core values at work



We have continued to work hard this term to embed further our core values of pride, responsibility, respect, resilience and ambition. We have recently introduced the Aston Conduct Card for students, this enables students to gain additional praise points for positive behaviours/actions such as helping out, acts of kindness, contribution to the school community and many other things. Students should have this card with them at all times so that if a member of staff witnesses them do something worthy of praise they can sign their card. These points are logged and go towards achieving rewards and a place in the Top 100 rewards scheme at the end of each term. Alongside this we are still running the personal development pledge scheme. Don't forget year 9 to work towards gaining your bronze, silver or gold award! In the coming term we will be looking at providing opportunity for students to take roles of responsibility within the school such as faculty support assistants. These voluntary roles will be advertised over coming weeks and will provide our students with a real life experience of applying for a post, interviewing and holding down a position of responsibility.

Representing Aston students at their best



We would like to give a big shout out to the Y9 netball team. They recently played Wickersley in the semi-final and played some excellent Netball to keep the scores close as they moved into the final quarter. Elizabeth C made several brilliant interceptions to regain possession and Cerys M showed real determination to drive the team forwards. Unfortunately it wasn't meant to be as Wickersley pipped them at the post and progressed through to the final. However, a third placed finish is something that the girls should be extremely proud of as they represented Aston with pride and commitment and were a credit to the Academy. Well Done!!!

Easter! A time for fresh starts! First Day Back and our priorities



Please can we remind everyone that Monday 15th April is the first day back!

For Christians the Easter egg represents new life, and hope for a better life to come. So it is timely that as the Easter holiday approaches we think about making fresh starts and planning for a better future in our academy. You will all have recently received a letter regarding year 9 and equipment. Can we please support our young people to make a positive start to the new term by ensuring all students have the basic equipment they need for learning, ready and with them daily. Through working together we can maximise the positive outcomes for our students.

Can we also pass on a big well done to our students who have made positive changes over this spring term- to the majority of students who now attend ready for learning in correct uniform, to those whose attendance has improved and to those who have successfully completed their positive monitoring reports. We are always eager to praise and reward when students are 'getting it right'. This week we have provided a celebratory buffet lunch to the tutor group with the best attendance, and rewarded our 'good eggs' with prizes in the assembly as well as our 'in it to win it' prize draw.

The best way to communicate with us



The methods of communication between home and school have recently evolved - this was actioned in direct response to feedback from parents/carers.

Please see all the inboxes below which are supervised by more than one person to ensure you receive a response as quickly as possible and from the right Team or individual colleague:

General 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 within three working days.

Social media - We have an Academy Facebook account which is a means of sharing information and celebrating student achievement/experience. Any comments made on these platforms will be monitored but will not always receive a response. Any specific queries requiring a response must be relayed through the info@ email address, please.

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@ 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.

Thank you.

Well Wishes

**Happy
Easter!**



Lastly, the year 9 team would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and restful Easter. As the seasons change we look forward to seeing you all again for an exciting and busy summer term.