



Year 8 - Term 2 Newsletter

A fantastic term 2 for Year 8!

What's the news? What have year 8 been up to this term?

This 2nd term has been an exceptionally busy one for year 8

1. Year 8 students have contributed to the wider life of the school representing our year group and our community in a range of sporting 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!



Resilience



Pride



Respect



Ambition



Responsibility

Our Year 8 students are continuing to progress in their academic and self development. This term has introduced new challenges to our students and they have met these head on.

Our **school core values** have been met by the year group consistently and we couldn't be more proud to stand with them in assembly each week and see them demonstrate these values to the rest of school.

- **Resilience**
- **Pride**
- **Respect**

- **Ambition**
- **Responsibility**

Our final message for this term is another huge thank you to our Year 8 parents and carers. We appreciate there have been many positive changes to the academy over the last year and we appreciate so many parents and carers working together with us to support our Year 8 students is key to helping them achieve their full potential.

We hope you enjoy our end of year newsletter and look forward to working with you again in Year 8.

Thank you

Year 8 Leadership Team

Celebrating Success - Y8 Netball and Football Rotherham Schools
Champions!





The Y8 Netball team edged a very close semi-final against Wales High School to make it through to the final against Wath. The game was neck and neck all the way through with both teams playing some outstanding Netball. At full time the score was level and so we moved into extra time. Again scores were level and so history was made as the first Netball match at Final's Day went to sudden death. Macey H won the toss which meant that Aston had the advantage of the centre pass. The girls worked hard to get the ball to Jessie B who handled the pressure brilliantly to score the winning point, meaning Aston were Y8 Rotherham Schools Champions!

On a very challenging day where we seemed to have four seasons in one day Aston faced Wath School in the u13 Rotherham Schools Final. Both teams started cautiously not wanting to make the first mistake. Wath opened the scoring with a glancing header from a corner, the score staying that way until half time. Wath scored straight from the restart to take a 2-0 lead. Almost immediately though Timo Richardson scored with a powerful downwards header from a corner to half the deficit. Two goals followed almost immediately another header from Thomas Brown and a fine near post-strike from Aiden Platts, from nowhere Aston were now leading 3-2 thanks to a domination 10-minute period. With the game still in the balance Aston kept pushing for the goal that would secure victory and it came with 10 minutes to go thanks to an opportunist strike from Eddie Wilcox. A huge team celebration at the corner flag emphasised the importance of the goal. This was a marvelous team performance showing great resilience to come from two goals down to win their second consecutive Rotherham Schools trophy.



Good Eggs!



We have seen our Year 8 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.

Attendance and Achievement!



We have had an absolutely huge number of achievement points collected by Y8 students! Over **44124** points! 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 Y8 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 Y8 currently stands at 91.5% for this half term. Although this is above 90% we are aiming to get to our 93% target by the end of the academic year and then on to 96%. To do this, 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 **8D3** who had the best attendance in the year - they were rewarded on Tuesday with a buffet to celebrate their resilience for getting into school!

National Careers Week!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Y11 Monday 4th March</p> <p>MEARS – Y11 Assembly on Trades apprenticeships Speaker: Diane Keay 11am – 11.30pm</p> <p>MEARS</p> <p>Free Spring pod Virtual Work Experience Engineering https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/engineering-work-experience/WEXP-00031</p> <p>National Careers Week</p> <p>NCW</p>	<p>Y10 Tuesday 5th March</p> <p>Sheffield United Education Y10 Assembly and Q&A time 10.40 am till 11 Student reception Speaker: Joe Lancashire</p> <p>COMMUNITY FOUNDATION</p> <p>BBC Bitesize Careers – Day in the Life of a Football Coach https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhs2b2dm</p> <p>Cooper Partners</p> <p>NatWest Group</p>	<p>Y9 Wednesday 6th March</p> <p>Blatchfords, Assembly and Apprentice attending Speaker: Marion Billingham Day in the life of... Employer and Apprentice</p> <p>Blatchford</p> <p>NHS Careers Quiz https://www.healthcareerx.nhs.uk/findyourcareer There are more than 350 different careers in the NHS.</p> <p>Step into the NHS – Guide to Apprenticeships https://www.stepintothelnhs.nhs.uk/careers/videos/apprenticeships</p> <p>NHS</p>	<p>Y8 Thursday 7th March</p> <p>Y8 Assembly – HEPP Inspire and inform students about Higher Education. Speaker Katie Fairhurst Y7,8,9 Workshops</p> <p>hepp heppsy</p> <p>Career Pilot – Finding a career from a subject you enjoy! https://www.careerpiot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects</p>	<p>Y7 Friday 8th March</p> <p>Y7 Assembly SWAMS Introduction to Medicine 11am – 11.30 Trainee Doctors Contact Manieevan</p> <p>SWAMS</p> <p>Springpod – Virtual Work Experience – Healthcare and Medicine https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/health-and-social-care/WEXP-00072</p>

Aston Academy celebrated this week which is all about supporting our young people with their career choices and making informed and appropriate career decisions throughout life. Wherever our Y8 students are on their journey, we wanted to provide a dedicated week; giving structure to help them to: identify skills, interests and career goals- explore and compare different options- work out the best career option- plan next steps and take action. Year 8 had a special external speaker deliver Assembly that week, there was a Careers Stall at lunchtimes and "Do Now Tasks" in lessons incorporated links to different employment sectors, apprenticeships or Career Pathways. The Careers Team highlighted virtual Work Experience information or other associated quizzes and links and external colleagues from the Higher Education Progression Partnership visited our Academy to work closely with identified students.

Proud Thursdays!

Welcome to our Proud Thursday Table!



Well done - your work is to be proud of - your teacher has given you a "Proud Thursday" sticker.

This is because your written work:

- Shows you've struggled - but got there!
- Demonstrates good progress and learning

You now get:

- this certificate (on the right)
- a communication home
- Possibly a photo of your work posted on Social Media
- 5 achievement points - so it's definitely worth it!



Resilience Pride Respect Ambition Responsibility

Vision – Be Exceptional

This initiative encourages our students to complete detailed, original and challenging written work on any day of the week, and to receive a "Proud Thursday" sticker in their book/folder for it. On Thursdays, a small team of dedicated teachers: Miss. Kirk, Miss. Nasser, Mr. Hardy and Miss. Teasdale give up their lunchtime to lead at the "Proud Thursday" table in Student Reception, where students may showcase their awarded work. This is a big deal - as each submission receives a certificate, communication home, achievement points and a chance for their work to be photographed for our Social Media. Many of our Year 8's have received the Proud Thursday certificate! Well done to all those students.

International Women's Day

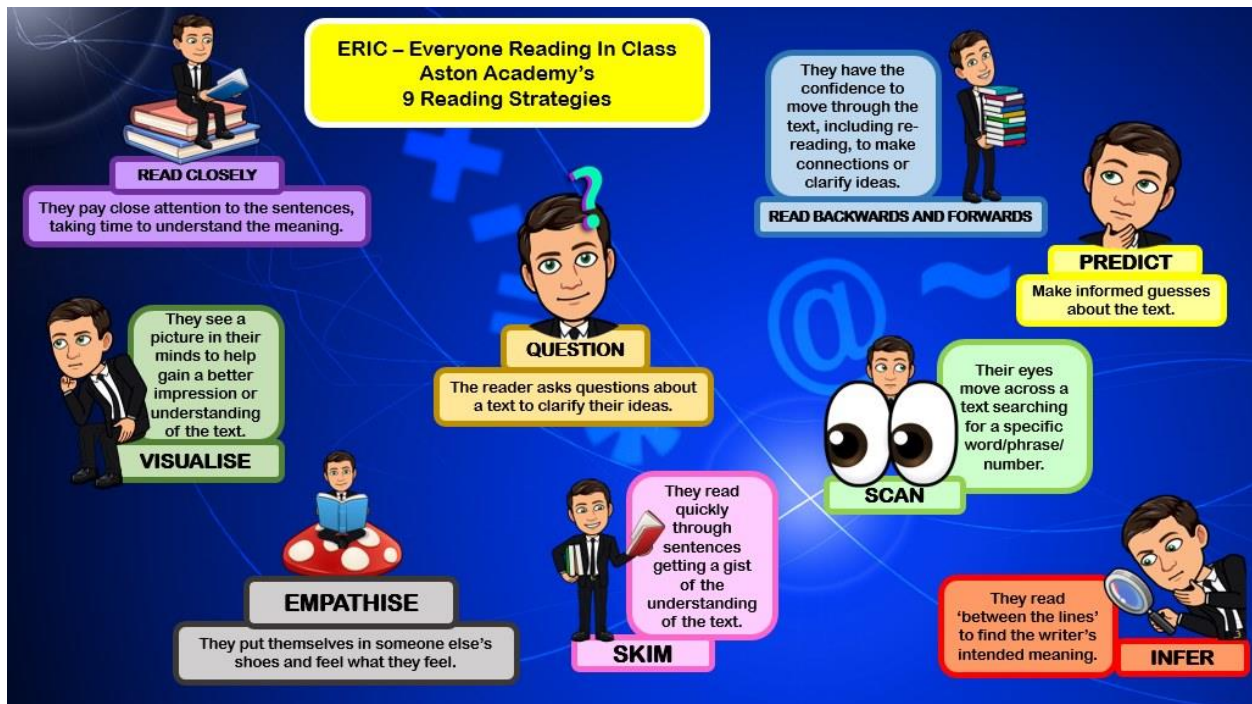


Celebrated annually on March 8th, Aston Academy wasn't going to miss out on opportunity to join the United Nations in celebrating under the theme "Invest In Women". We raised funds by selling cakes and biscuits and by asking our staff to wear purple at work for the day, and donating for the privilege. (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!



ERIC - Everyone Reading In Class

Y8 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!

Y8 students will be completing their second NGRT test to look at their current reading level after the Easter break. 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).

Our Personal Development Pledge

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	MERIT	DISTINCTION
Complete 1 activity in each section	Complete 9+ activities across all 5 sections	Complete 13+ activities across all 5 sections

 Resilience	 Pride	 Respect	 Ambition	 Responsibility
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ASTON
Vision – Be Exceptional

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.

Communication.



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.

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 within 3 working days.

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@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@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.

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.

Uniform - Any uniform related questions should be emailed to the uniform@astonacademy.org address.

Faculty email addresses:

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

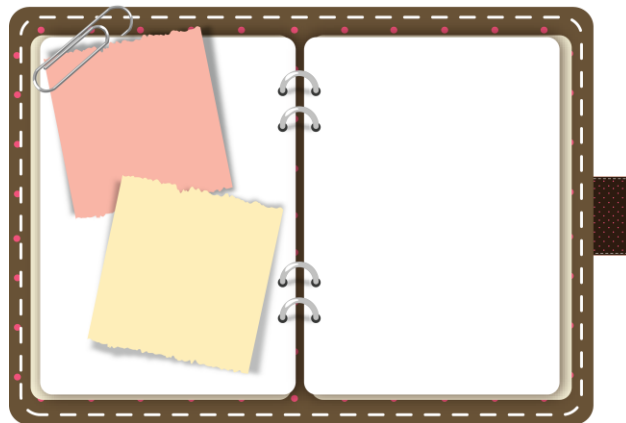
Work Experience: workexperience@astonacademy.org

Exams: exams@astonacademy.org

ERIC: eric@astonacademy.org



Dates for your diary



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

Year Team Information



The Year team wish everyone a Happy Easter!

A reminder that the link staff with the year group in Year 8 are:

Ms Booker - Assistant Vice Principal

Mr Staniland - Pastoral Learning Lead

Mrs Ellis - Learning Progress Manager