



ASTON MANOR ACADEMY

PART OF EQUITAS ACADEMIES TRUST

SPRING NEWS

2025

HEADTEACHER



Welcome to our Easter newsletter. It is difficult to imagine that this time last year we were in the middle of RAAC, and students and staff faced enormous challenges. This year we have certainly made up for it, we are now able to celebrate the enrichment opportunities, clubs and visits that we love to provide, and the fantastic work of our students.

Tesco's free fruit and vegetables has been keeping students fed in the morning alongside our bagels and it is wonderful

to see students accessing books and newspapers as they eat breakfast and prepare for the day. Year 11 and 13's are busy revising for forthcoming exams, and we wish them luck for the Summer. Have a great Easter break! Ms Sweeney.



VALENTINES DAY FUNDRAISER



Year 11 students organised a Valentine's Day Fundraiser. This included a cake sale, henna, personalised roses, and a photo booth. They made an incredible £500 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. The team were determined to make it a success and within 10 minutes the treats and gifts sold out. Thanks to Hameedat, Asraa, Maliha, Anisa, Iman, Malikah, Lyba, Safiya, Muna, Manal, Alicia and Ikraam for organising this event.

Well done girls you should all be proud of your achievement.

SEND INCLUSION AWARD ACHIEVEMENT

We are delighted to announce that Aston Manor Academy has been awarded the SEND Inclusion Award (SENDIA), which was officially conferred on 26th March 2025.

This prestigious accreditation will last for three years, recognising the outstanding efforts of our school in supporting and including pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to several parents for their invaluable support during the process: Mr Swann, Mrs Farah, Mrs Akhtar, and Mr Ullah. Your involvement and commitment to our SEND provision have been deeply appreciated. A special thank you also

goes to both the pupils and staff whose voices and contributions were instrumental in achieving this recognition.

As part of the report, we received some wonderful feedback:

"Pupils with SEND needs are given every opportunity to flourish at Aston Manor," and "SENDIA's alignment with the school's motto: All different, All equal, All achieving means that the award is built upon an established whole school culture of inclusion."

This award reflects the collective effort of the entire staff. We are proud of the inclusive culture we have fostered at Aston Manor, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Mrs Oubhie - SENDCo



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

We celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March in our school with enthusiasm and respect.

The day was marked to celebrate recognition and appreciation to the contributions and achievements of women.



FOOTBALL

AVFC vs Brentford and AVFC u19s vs Barcelona u19s

Our football academy students had the amazing opportunity to attend Aston Villa vs Brentford in December through our partnership with the Aston Villa Foundation. It was a great evening out as Villa came out 3-1 winners.

More recently our students attended the UEFA Youth League knockout match between AVFC u19s and Barcelona u19s. Unfortunately Villa were on the wrong end of a 3-1 loss but the experience was invaluable as our students got to see what elite performance looks like at their age and what they can aspire to.

Fixtures Boys

The Boys A team have been fighting for a place at the top of the CEFA Central 1 League. They have won 4 of 5 matches since December and have shown huge improvement since the start of the season. They had the amazing opportunity to play at St. George's Park (Home of England Football) in a recent away fixture against league rivals Burton Albion F.C. In a dominant second half performance they showed great resilience to equalise in the 93rd minute only to succumb to a heartbreaking loss with the last touch of the game. Since then they have bounced back with 3 dominant wins over Stoke, Notts County and Birmingham City.

The Boys Development team have had a challenging Spring but have recently shown great improvement in a friendly against Birmingham City University. A number of the squad have also earned recent call ups to the A team. 5 players started the 3-1 win over Notts County and coaches Marco and Astel are proud of their progress.

Year 8 Football Shoutout

The Year 8 boys football team played their first fixture of 2025 against Arena Academy, running out 4-3 winners. After a very dominant start with a Hatrick from Khalid and 1 goal from Alpha to put us 4-0 up, the boys had to dig deep and survive a brief Arena come back to claim 3 points for the title push!

Man of the match: Salman Beshir- who kept Arena's best player in his back pocket all game!

Year 7 Girls Fustal Champions!

The Year 7 girls Football team put on a great performance and won the 'Birmingham School Games Fustal Competition' without a loss! Massive well done.

Girls

The Girls A team are playing in an extremely competitive South Women's Division. Despite numerous injuries, the girls have shown huge improvement. The girls welcomed Wolves on 26th March to Brookvale Academy. A team consisting of mostly Year 12s showed amazing togetherness and determination to avenge two earlier losses and come away with a 2-0 win. Winning the mental game has been a huge focus for the girls and Coaches Matt and Alberto were most proud of the attitude the girls played with and look forward to them building on this to finish the season strong.

BASKETBALL

Sports Leadership

Our BTEC Sports students have been coaching lower school pupils in football and basketball this term for their Sports Leadership module. It was amazing to see the coaches grow in confidence and connect with the younger students throughout the 6 sessions they delivered.



Year 7 and Year 10 Girls Basketball - Birmingham League Winners!

AMA continue their winning streak with another 2 league championships for our Year 7 and Year 10 girls Basketball Teams. Our Year 10 team have now won for 3 consecutive years. Huge Congratulations.

Year 7 Junior NBA!

AMA's Year 7 Junior NBA team have made it through to the play offs after a great start to their Basketball Seasons. Good luck!



PRIMARY SPORT - FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL

Our A team have recovered from a slow start to dominate the CBL 3 North. A 10 game win streak saw them finish top of the league. They then defeated Leeds City College by 9 points to earn promotion to CBL 2. With most of the squad returning for the 2025-26 season, the team is looking to make a statement in the national 2nd tier of elite basketball.

ATHLETICS

Sportshall Athletics Champions!

A big congratulations to our Year 8 Girls and Boys Sportshall Athletics teams who made it through to the Birmingham City Championships! Massive well done to those involved and good luck in the finals!

Leadership - Panathlon Event

15 of our top leaders in Year 10 and 11 were fantastic leading the Panathlon event for the second year running and once again were a massive credit to the school as feedback received was amazing.



CBL - Promoted

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YR 9, 10 & 11 - FOOD SKILLS

Year 10 Get a Taste of the Food Industry at UCB College

Our Year 10 students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit UCB College for a hands-on taster session in Food, Bakery, and Barista training. Throughout the day, students explored different courses offered at the college, gaining valuable insight into further education and potential career paths in the food industry.

The experience was both educational and exciting, with students trying their hand at a variety of practical skills. In the cookery session, they prepared delicious chicken kebabs with homemade pitta bread. Over in the bakery, they got creative making cookies and chocolate lollipops, while the barista session gave them a chance to perfect their hot chocolate-making skills.

This trip provided an inspiring glimpse into the possibilities available in hospitality and catering, sparking enthusiasm for future studies and careers in the sector. A huge thank you to UCB College for hosting such an engaging and insightful experience for our students!



Year 9 - Bread making skills

Recently, our Year 9 students put their creativity to the test by baking and decorating focaccia bread; transforming their dough into stunning floral spring landscapes. With the donated vegetables, they practised essential knife skills and explored the art of food presentation, producing incredible designs. A huge thank you to Tesco for their support as their donation has truly enhanced our students' learning experience and inspired them to be even more creative in the kitchen!

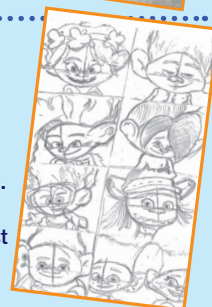
ART



The Fabulous Mr Warmington

We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible artistic talent of D'Mari Warmington, a gifted Year 9 pupil whose passion for art shines through in every art piece he creates. Whether sketching in his free time or experimenting with digital art during breaks and lunchtimes, D'Mari's dedication and creativity are truly inspiring.

As he continues to develop his skills, particularly in digital illustration, we have no doubt that his artistic journey is only just beginning. A true credit to Aston Manor Academy, we couldn't be prouder of his achievements!



Year 8 Portraits project - Spring Term Artist Shepard Fairey - Year 8 Ramadan inspired portraits

Year 8 Portraits Project: Art Meets Identity and Inspiration

This spring term, Year 8 pupils at Aston Manor Academy have embraced a vibrant and expressive portraits project, exploring identity through bold colour and powerful symbolism. One of the key artists studied has been the globally recognised Shepard Fairey, known for his distinctive use of red, white, blue, black, and yellow in high-impact posters that often carry strong messages and iconic imagery - such as the famous "Hope" portrait of Barack Obama.

Inspired by Fairey's unique style, pupils have created their own stunning artworks, many of which feature contemporary figures like Taylor Swift, blending graphic design with personal expression. The results have been nothing short of outstanding - showcasing not only the students' technical skills, but also their creativity and confidence in experimenting with colour, tone, and shape to define features and emotion.

In Mr Ali's group, the creative energy took on a special significance this term.

As it is Ramadan, pupils were invited to create Ramadan-inspired portraits in the style of Shepard Fairey - fusing faith, culture, and design. The outcome was a thoughtful and meaningful series of posters that echo Fairey's iconic layout, but reimagined with messages of hope, peace, gratitude, and reflection during this sacred time.

Here are just a few fantastic examples from our talented students -



MATHS

Well done to the winners and everyone else who entered.

Fibonacci Competition Winners!

Pi day was on the 14th March, to acknowledge the day pupils were given the opportunity to design a Pi skyline. There were lots of fabulous entries, but the winners are...

Abir Y10

Niha Y9 & Neha Y9

Malak Y8

1st

2nd

3rd

TRIPS

Rewards trip

Our Accelerated reader programme has been very successful this year with pupils reading a quizzing on a huge number of books. As a reward, we took 50 of our best readers from Year 7 and 8 to visit Vue Cinema at Star City to watch the magical 'If.' It was a fantastic morning out where we could sit back, relax and enjoy the film. Well done to all who attended.



MUSIC International Women's Day

30 Year 7 students celebrated International Women's Day with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire leader Caitlin Miller. The 'Divas who dared to dream' project focused on women composers and celebrating their success in a diverse field of music making from Gregorian chant to gaming.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

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Spotlight Concert

In March we had our 3rd Spotlight Concert. 20 students, mainly from Year 7, were invited to perform a piece that they have been learning. This nurturing and supportive environment was perfect for their first public performance. We hope this kindled a sense of pride in our young musicians and inspires them to go on to do more performing in the future.

Symphony Hall

Our Year 7 cohort enjoyed an afternoon at Symphony Hall in February. They got to experience the amazing spectacle of the Symphony Hall and were entertained with a wonderful concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The concert was a journey around the world and at each stop on the journey they listened to music from that country. They also danced a Can-Can and conducted the orchestra playing the theme tune from 'Star Wars'.



Sacred Funk Quartet Performance

Our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an hour of musical education from the 'Sacred Funk Quartet'. The quartet performed and talked about the music of West Africa and how music has evolved over time. They learnt about the connection Birmingham has with the Slave Trade and how Jazz, Blues and Samba stem from these roots.



TRIPS

French Breakfast Experience – A Tasty Success!

Our Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic morning at 'The Olive Restaurant', where they had an authentic French breakfast experience. From ordering croissants and pain au chocolat to conversing with staff, they spoke only in French! This immersive trip boosted their confidence and brought their learning to life. Un grand merci to the olive restaurant for the great experience and to Aston Manor Academy for making this opportunity possible!



KNITTING CLUB

On Tuesday at KS3 lunchtimes in the library, Ms Clifton and Ms Kent hold crochet and knitting club. It's a wonderful chance to learn a different skill and make new friends; the enthusiasm and talent of the group is amazing and students are really engaging in creating their own work which includes making bracelets and even cuddly toys!



FIRST AID



Year 9 students participate in First Aid workshop as part of ASDAN life skills course

This term, our Year 9 students had the valuable opportunity to participate in a two-hour resuscitation and basic first aid workshop led by Katie Oates, Mini First Aid Representative. This hands-on session was part of the ASDAN course, a new addition to the AMA curriculum designed to help students develop practical life skills alongside academic learning.

ASDAN is a nationally recognized qualification that emphasizes personal development, independence and real-world skills. Through a series of structured modules, students gain experience in areas like home management, financial awareness and workplace skills. By completing this course students not only build confidence but also earn credits toward an ASDAN qualification which can support future educational and career pathways.

So far the ASDAN course has focused on practical skills related to technology in the home such as operating washing machines, dryers and irons.

First aid training, including the use of a defibrillator was an ideal addition; combining technology with essential lifesaving skills that could benefit our students and their communities.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to Anthony Reece-Thompson from Sandwell African Caribbean Mental Health Foundation for organising the session and to Katie for leading the course and certifying our students.

The workshop covered critical first aid techniques including:

- CPR
- Managing choking incidents
- Handling bleeds
- Applying bandages and treating falls and trips
- Recognizing and responding to allergies

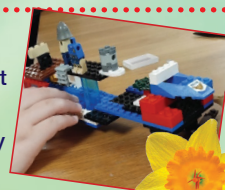
We're proud of our students for embracing these vital skills that could one day help save a life and for making significant strides toward their ASDAN qualification.

LET'S GO LEGO!

Come along! Develop your problem-solving skills, spatial awareness, and critical thinking skills, long

term memory and open your creative side and start building.

Lego Club... Every Monday
KS3 lunch in D4B



ECO CLUB - GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The Geography Department and Eco-Club have been buzzing with excitement as they dive into new adventures with their brand-new VR headset!

So far, students from Year 7 to Year 11 have been transported to stunning locations around the globe. The Meta 3 headset offers an incredibly immersive experience that has left everyone in awe and filled the classroom with laughter. From trekking across the icy wilderness of Antarctica to meeting llamas in Peru and soaring above the breathtaking landscapes of Iceland, the possibilities are endless! We can't wait for even more thrilling journeys in the summer term!



DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS IN SCHOOL (DSL)

Aston Manor Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of ALL of our students.

If you need help or are worried about something or someone and need to talk to someone – we are ALL here to listen. You can speak to ANY member of staff in school about ANY concern, but they may need to share that information with one of these members of staff

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Ms P Jones
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs K Qureshi
DDSL



Mrs J Sweeney
Headteacher
Deputy DSL
Headteachers



Mr N Turner
Deputy DSL
Deputy
Headteacher



Mr J Forbes
Deputy DSL
Deputy
Headteacher



Mrs Hussain
Deputy DSL
Assistant
Headteacher KS3



Mr D Amirgowhar
Assistant
Headteacher KS4



Mr D Preston
Deputy DSL
Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs B Oubhie
SENDCo



Mrs H Kaur
Head of 6th Form
Mental Health
Lead



Mr Duah
Youth Worker/
Mentor

