

Welcome to Year 7

How to help your child with homework...

- Try to establish a homework routine where you agree on a suitable time for homework to be completed each day.
- Create a space free from any distractions where your child can complete their homework. Make sure that your child has all the equipment they need readily available.
- Encourage your child to complete homework on the day it is set. This allows plenty of time if they need to contact their teacher for support.
- Help your child to become a resilient learner by encouraging them to complete their homework independently. If they find the homework too challenging, ask them to talk to their subject teacher.
- Provide encouragement and praise for your child's effort. Celebrate with your child when they are rewarded by the school for homework completion.
- Please contact your child's subject teacher via 'office@' in the first instance if you have any concerns or suggestions regarding the homework that has been set.

Homework isn't just extra work — it's your chance to practise, grow, and prove to yourself what you're really capable of.



A school of character...

“Education is not only about what children know but about who they become.”

Character education is a vital part of your child's development, helping to shape not only who they are, but how they interact with the world around them. At Aston Fields Middle School, character education supports pupils academically, socially and in becoming responsible citizens.

Here's why it matters and how traits like resilience, curiosity, community spirit, motivation, tolerance, ambition, honesty, and perseverance make a real difference.

Academic Benefits - Character traits are the foundation of successful learning e.g. **Resilience** helps children bounce back from setbacks and keep trying when they face academic challenges. **Curiosity** drives a love of learning, encouraging pupils to ask questions and explore ideas beyond the classroom.

Social Development - Strong character helps children build positive relationships and navigate social situations with empathy and understanding e.g. **Honesty** fosters trust and helps children develop integrity, both in school and in life. **Tolerance** teaches respect for others' views, cultures, and beliefs - vital in our diverse and modern society.

Active and Responsible Citizenship - Character education supports the development of responsible future citizens who contribute positively to society e.g. **Ambition** inspires pupils to set goals, work hard, and aim high in life - whether academically, professionally, or personally. **Community spirit and tolerance** prepare young people to play active roles in their communities and take responsibility for the wellbeing of others.

As a parent, your support is essential. Schools and families working together to reinforce these values at home and in the classroom creates a strong foundation for your child's future. Look at our school website to see how we promote character education and talk to your child about what these traits mean in everyday life.

When character education is taken seriously, we don't just help children succeed in school - we help shape confident, compassionate and capable young adults.

Careers...CIEAG

Aston Fields Middle School **has a** highly effective **CIEAG – Careers Information Education Advice & Guidance**. We offer a well-structured career service to help our pupils make informed decisions about their post 16 pathways.

As a school, we work together with the Careers & Enterprise Company through Worcestershire County Council who work closely with us to ensure best practice for our pupils. Examples of career related opportunities can range from university visits, photography workshops, STEM workshops, apprenticeship insights and International Women's Day where inspirational guests come in and work with our pupils. Additionally, visiting 6th formers and past pupils come into school to share their career journey and experiences since leaving AFMS.

Through offering these opportunities to your children, we hope it will inspire and ignite a desire and interest to explore a particular career or journey early on with the intention for them to succeed in the world of work and beyond.

Every career starts with curiosity — explore your interests now, and you'll shape the future that's waiting just for you.



How to help your child with reading...

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn and one that affects every subject they study. As you know, here at Aston Fields Middle School, we use a programme called **Renaissance Reading** to support and motivate children to become more confident, independent readers. Here's how you can support your child's reading at home and how Renaissance Reading works to help.

Why Reading Matters

Regular reading boosts your child's:

- **Vocabulary and comprehension**
- **Writing and spelling skills**
- **Confidence and focus**
- **Imagination and creativity**

Children who read often perform better across all subjects, not just English

How Renaissance Reading Works

Renaissance Reading is a reading programme used in many schools, mainly from Years 3 to 9. It helps teachers track your child's reading progress and guide them to books that are right for their level.

1. Initial Reading Assessment (STAR Test):

Your child takes a short, computer-based quiz that gives them a reading level range called a **ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)**. This helps them choose books that are challenging but not too difficult.

2. Choosing Books:

Pupils select books from within their ZPD range, either from the school library or from home. These are books that match their current reading level and support progress.

3. Reading the Book:

Your child reads the book at school and/or home, at their own pace.

4. Taking a Quiz:

Once finished, your child completes a short quiz on the computer to check understanding. This helps teachers see how well they've understood the book and what support may be needed.

5. Tracking Progress:

Teachers (and pupils) can track reading habits, quiz scores, and word count to celebrate success and set new targets.

How You Can Help at Home

- **Encourage daily reading** (20 minutes is ideal) and make it part of the routine.
- **Show interest** in what your child is reading - ask questions and talk about the story or topic.
- **Visit your local library** together or explore online reading resources.
- **Celebrate achievements** like completed books, passed quizzes or reaching word-count milestones.
- **Check your child's level** and help them find books within that range if you're reading at home.

Reading is like opening a door to a thousand different worlds - every page is a new adventure waiting to begin.

Growth Mindset...

Year 7 is a key transition year. Pupils face new subjects, routines, and expectations. A growth mindset helps them:

- Build confidence in new challenges
- Bounce back from setbacks
- Stay motivated even when work gets tough
- Develop independent learning skills

How You Can Support at Home

- **Praise effort, not just results** – “You tried really hard on that!”
- **Talk positively about challenges** – “It's OK to find things tricky—that's how we grow.”
- **Encourage reflection** – “What could you do differently next time?”
- **Model learning from mistakes** – Share your own experiences.

Helping your child build a growth mindset now sets them up for long-term success—both in and out of school.

Who to contact...

For initial queries relating to your child, please liaise with your child's form tutor in the first instance. The majority of queries can be successfully dealt with at this level. If, however, you feel that your child's form tutor has not been able to successfully deal with your enquiry, please then ask to speak to Miss Bratton - Director of Year 7, or the relevant Director of Subject, including the SENDCo. They will be more than happy to work with you to resolve any queries you may have. For full details of who to contact, please see the school website.