



The Astley Cooper School

September 2025

Responsibility □ Respect □ Resilience

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to a new school year. I hope you and your family had a good summer.

My name is James Rourke, and I am the new Head of Year 8. I am looking forward to working with you and helping your children to thrive and excel at school. My email address is: ja.rourke@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can help with. I have an excellent group of form tutors who will be working with me to support the students. Their email addresses are listed below.

8P - Mr Buchmann (+Ms Andreas): s.buchmann@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk	8H - Ms Patel: a.patel@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk
8S - Mr Kambakoka: c.kambakoka@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk	8K - Ms Wijekoon: s.wijekoon@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk
8C - Ms Frame: s.frame@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk	8N - Ms Tan: j.tan@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Your child's form tutor should be your first point of contact if you would like to communicate with the school.

You should have received communication from your child's Form Tutor prior to returning to school, please use their contact details in the first instance. They will not be in a position to give you detail about specific subject progress. This will be given at parents' evening.

Please access Go 4 Schools to see your child's attendance, punctuality, house points, attitude to learning points in each lesson and behaviour points. If you need to create an account, please see the school website parent page. As you will have seen in the press, the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, has been talking about the importance of attendance to school, particularly around the parental responsibility regarding attendance and how this should complement the efforts of the school. We want to work with you to ensure that your child has the best experience at The Astley Cooper School and both home and school using the information on Go4Schools allows us to do this.

I have attached a document with this letter that provides a basic overview of the year ahead so you can discuss with your child and encourage them to become involved with the fun activities we have planned to complement their studies. Please be aware this schedule could be altered and developed as we progress through the year.

The Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on the 3 December. It will be lovely to see you all there. Nearer the date you will be able to book appointments with your child's teachers. I will also be there if you would like to see me.

It would be fantastic to see all students get fully involved in the many different aspects of school life we offer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Rourke
Head of Year



Headteacher:
Sam Orsborne
St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7HL 01442394141
admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk
[Twitter@Astley_Cooper](https://twitter.com/Astley_Cooper)

The Astley Cooper School

Year 8 Journey

September

- First day of term
- House - Boys Futsal
- House - Talent Show

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October

- Open evening/mornings
- House – Girls Basketball
- House – Sculpture competition
- Reward breakfast

November

- House – Boys Basketball
- House – Christmas card competition

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December

- Parents evening
- House – Girls Futsal
- House – Christmas cake decoration competition
- End of term reward for leading House
- Celebration assembly
- Reward film

January

- House – Swimming gala
- House – Debating competition

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February

- House – Just Dance competition
- House - Taskmaster
- Reward breakfast

March

- Pi Day
- Science week challenges
- House - Taskmaster

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April

- House – Story writing
- Maths Challenge UK
- End of term reward for leading House
- Celebration assembly
- Reward film

May

- House - Rounders
- House - Chess
- Reward breakfast

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June

- PE rewards trip
- House - Cricket

July

- House – Sports Day
- House – Video games
- End of year reward for winning House
- Celebration assembly
- Reward trip

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