



The Howard School

Aspire Newsletter

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

ASPIRE PINS

The Aspire pins are currently on their way to the Howard School. This pin symbolises the hard work of an Aspire student, but also creates a sense of community. Let it remind you of your potential and the bright future ahead! We hope to distribute the pins at the beginning of Term 2 to all Aspire students.

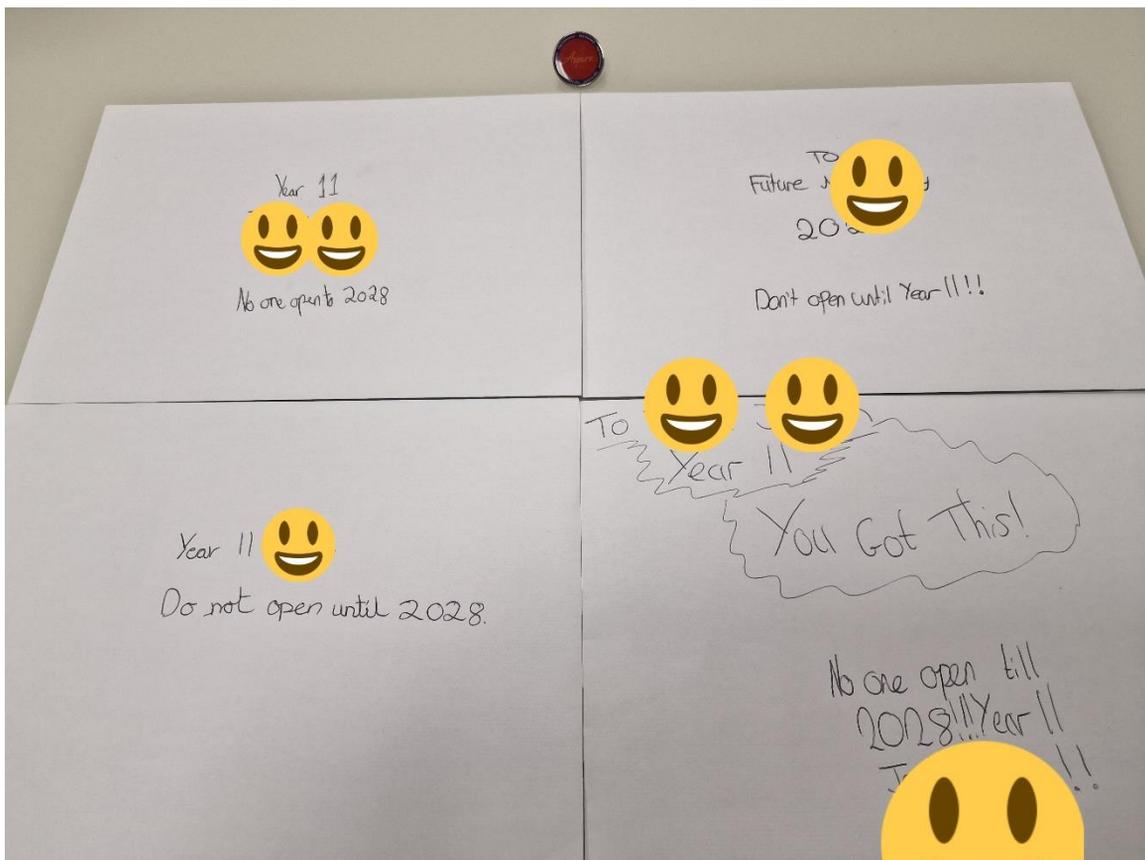


BECOMING AN ASPIRE STUDENT WORKSHOP

Following the launch of the Aspire programme, we met with our Year 7 Aspire students for their first workshop. They explored what it means to be an Aspire student by creating personal profiles that showcased their interests and future ambitions.

Students collaboratively developed an Aspire contract, establishing key values such as "Give 100% effort 100% of the time" and "Always hold the door open for other students." The workshop concluded with each student writing a sealed letter to themselves, to be opened in 2028, filled with motivational messages and reminders of their current aspirations.

I personally loved witnessing the kindness and ambition of these students during the workshop, reflecting the exact culture I want to promote in our Aspire students. I even wrote a letter to myself so I will be there in September 2028 opening it with them.



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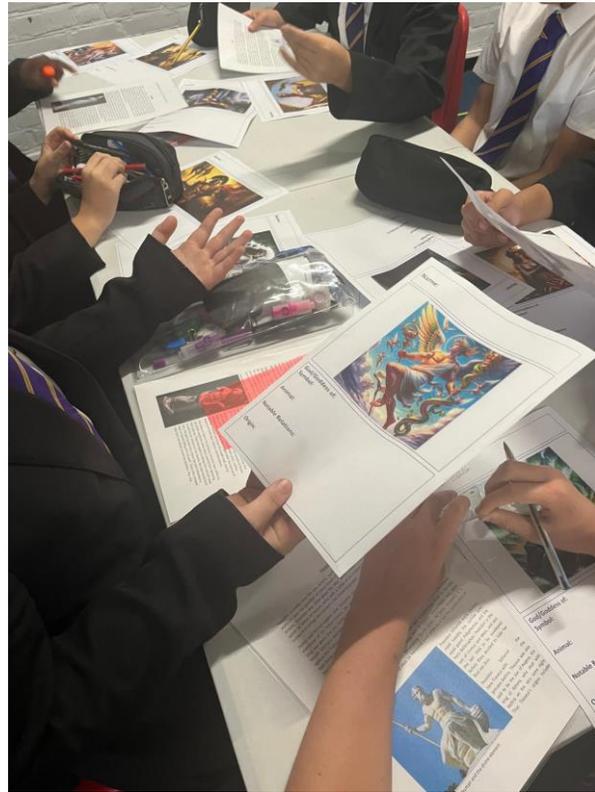
CLASSICAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

Last week, Ms Parish and Miss Leeper teamed up to run a full day workshop on Classical Studies for our Yr 8 HPA students. The day began with an introduction to Ancient Greece and Greek mythology, focusing on the 12 Olympian Gods and their complex family history. With this information, students had to complete character bios for the 12 Olympians, researching their origin stories, any notable relations, and what ways they had impacted mortals' lives.

After this, students had an explanation on Greek architecture, with a focus on temples, and how modern buildings (including The Howard School!) have been influenced by ancient architecture. Students were then tasked with creating their own temples dedicated to one of the gods they had studied earlier. We were thoroughly impressed with the teamwork and creativity demonstrated by all the students.

Finally, the day ended with an introduction to Greek Theatre, specifically Greek Tragedy. Students were given the opportunity to rehearse an extract from Euripides' 'Medea', with some groups volunteering to perform their pieces, replicating ancient theatre by utilising masks.

Overall, it was a very successful day with students coming away with newfound knowledge about a subject that has influenced almost every aspect of modern culture and society.

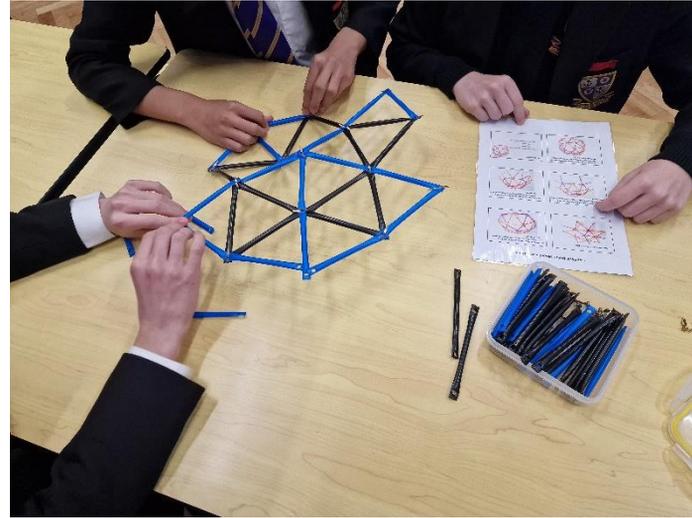


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STEM WORKSHOP - GEODESIC DOMES

The Howard School regularly collaborates with the Medway Education Business Partnership (MEBP) to run STEM events for students. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The workshop started with an introduction to the origins of the geodesic dome before students were then divided into teams to build and test small domes, before moving into bigger groups to build large domes.

The day was fantastic and the MEBP representative commented on how respectful and enthusiastic the boys were.



We have already booked in several STEM workshops with MEBP which will take place throughout the academic year. This includes:

- Tetrahedron challenge
- Lego house challenge
- K'Nex challenge
- Forensics investigation

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

YEAR 8 INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECTS

8H1 were set a project task for independent study in Geography this term. Their task was to create a “biome in a box” using their knowledge from lessons and any additional research they chose do at home. Mrs Stone (Head of Geography) is extremely proud of the results.

This is a great example of the sort of work we love setting our Aspire students. It is a chance to be creative and show off their knowledge from lessons too!

TEAM FOREST



TEAM CORAL REEF



TEAM TUNDRA



TEAM DESERT



ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

YEAR 10 PROGRESS MEETINGS

This term, we met with our Year 10 Aspire students to discuss their academic progress, aspirations and goals for the upcoming year. These meetings served as a platform for students and parents/carers to voice their thoughts but also reinforced the support we want to give our Aspire students in order to help them succeed. It was a great opportunity for us to gather information about the boys' interests and future career paths. I am now looking for opportunities to bring in external speakers in the specific industries mentioned during the meetings. We also wanted the students to think about their current progress and how they can push themselves further by setting targets around specific subjects.

Over the course of this year, we look forward to witnessing the progress of our Year 10 students and supporting them on their journey to success. This is an important year for our Year 10 Aspire students and we encourage them to reach out for help whenever it is needed. I have attached the calendar below which outlines important dates in the calendar alongside the dates for the two GCSE English Literature exams.

When?	What?
Term 1 - Week beginning 30 th September 2024	Year 10 Aspire Progress Meetings
Term 2 - Week beginning 18 th November 2024	Year 10 English Literature GCSE Information Evening
Term 3 - Friday 17 th January 2025	Year 10 English Literature Component 1 Mock
Term 4 - Thursday 13 th March 2025	Year 10 Parents Evening
Term 4 - Friday 21 st March 2025	Year 10 English Literature Component 2 Mock
Term 5 - Monday 12th May 2025	English Literature GCSE Exam - Component 1
Term 5 - Tuesday 20th May 2025	English Literature GCSE Exam - Component 2
Term 6 - Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	University of Kent Campus Visit
Term 6 - Week beginning 9 th June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Term 6 - Week beginning 23 rd June 2025	Year 10 Mock Exam Week
Term 6 - Week beginning 30 th June 2025	Year 10 Food Technology Practical Mocks
Term 6 - Week beginning 7 th July 2025	Year 10, Art, Photography and 3D Mocks

GCSE English Literature

Paper	Title	Exam timing	% of Grade
1	Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry	2 h	40%
2	Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19 th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry	2 h 30 m	60%



All Year 10 Aspire students and parents/carers should receive their feedback from the progress meetings in the last week of Term 1. Please contact dunns@thehowardschool.co.uk if you need support with this.

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - LOOKING AHEAD TO TERM 2

TERM 2 PLAN

The launch of the Aspire programme in Term 1 has been a huge success so far. We have already provided a wide range of academic and enriching opportunities for our students. I am so proud that even more staff at the Howard School are volunteering to support me with this.

The table below outlines the Aspire programme plan for Term 2. My goal is that there will be an Aspire event every week over the course of this academic year, with a vision for growth and even more opportunities in the future. The plan includes a summary of each event and the important details. I will always send a letter out to parents/carers at least two weeks before the activity with more specific details, so don't panic!

Week	Date	Year Group	Details
1	8/11/24	9	Aspire Workshop - Making the best start to GCSEs Students will be participating in a 2-hour workshop where we will discuss the start they have made to their GCSEs. This will also provide an opportunity to talk about what it means to be an Aspire student. Finally, we will take student voice to find out what they boys want from the Aspire programme and create future plans.
2	14/11/24	7	STEM Workshop - Tetrahedron Challenge Students will be participating in a Giant Tetrahedron Construction Challenge run by MEBP in the Main Hall. This workshop involves students in a demonstration of the properties of triangles and pyramids before working in teams to construct a model, then a giant tetrahedron, using rods and bands. Students then take part in a quiz to assess their learning from the day.
4	26/11/24	9	University of Kent Workshop - University Life Students will be participating in an interactive one-hour workshop run by the University of Kent Outreach team in the Gallery Theatre. This is an interactive workshop designed to answer students' questions about university life and the boys will get to meet students from the University of Kent, each at different stages of their Further Education. It has always been a very popular workshop!
5	3/12/24 or 5/23/24	7	Aspire Workshop - Creative Writing Students will be participating in a full day of Creative Writing with Miss Parish. This workshop will encourage students to explore their creativity, develop their writing skills, and discover the joy of storytelling. The workshop is being run over two days so Year 7 Aspire students can be split into two groups. This workshop works more effectively in smaller groups, so the boys will be notified which day they are participating in.
5	4/12/24	10	University of Kent Trip - Sport Science Workshop Students will visit the University of Kent in Canterbury to take part in a STEM workshop linked to Sport Science. Students will create a research poster about what they learn during the workshop which will be entered into this year's British Association of Sport and Exercise Science's poster competition. The national winning school will win a prize which includes a visit from a high-profile athlete or coach, alongside the winning poster being presented at the association's own student conference .



This is just a reminder that we are trying to balance the Aspire programme with their normal lessons and studies. We don't want students to miss too much valuable time from lessons, so some terms will not be as busy for all Aspire students. For example, there is no activity in Term 2 for Year 8 Aspire students as they had two activities in Term 1 and I have planned two activities for them in Term 3.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

MR DUNN (ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL)

What A Levels did you study?

Geography, Business Studies, Biology and Maths.

What did you study at University?

I have a degree in Geography (BSc) and a masters degree in Environmental Science (MSc).

Where did you go to University?

I went to the University of Liverpool.

What did you enjoy learning about the most at University?

My favourite modules at University were "Geomorphology" and "Minerals, Magma and Volcanoes". Geomorphology is the study of natural landscapes and their features. I enjoyed learning about river, coastal and glaciated landscapes. Minerals, magma and volcanoes was fun because it involved laboratory lessons, which was brand new to me as I hadn't studied Geography in this way before.

What inspires you most about Geography?

I love the relevance of the subject. Geography impacts us every day and is one of the most important subjects for us to understand for our future, in my opinion. I also love the wide range of topics: you can be a fan of physical geography like myself, studying rivers and volcanoes, but you could also be interested in geopolitics or the need for sustainable cities in the future if you prefer human geography.



MISS TURNEY (HEAD OF HISTORY)

What A Levels did you study?

History, English Literature, English Language and Maths

What did you study at University?

I have a degree in History (BA) and a PGCE.

Where did you go to University?

I went to the University of Chichester.

What did you enjoy learning about the most at University?

Whilst at University I really enjoyed learning social history. This is how society has changed over time and the role of different factors that have contributed to the world we have today. I really enjoyed learning about the impact of World War One and World War Two on the world. My favourite module at university was on how films portray past events. This was something I'd never had the chance to study before and allowed me to look at the way films are made to show a specific aspect of the past.

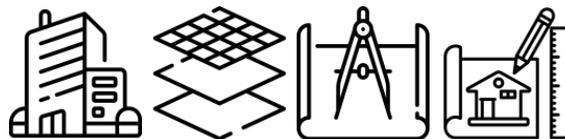
What inspires you most about History?

I love how History has shaped the world we live in today. Without it, the way people live their lives wouldn't be the same. In my opinion, its such an important subject to study to understand the world around us and society has been shaped by every event that happened before today. It impacts everyone in a different way, from local history to global history: everyone is shaped by past events.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

ARCHITECT



What is an architect?

Architects plan and design the construction and development of buildings and land areas with regard to functional and aesthetic requirements.

What is the wage of an architect?

New workers start around £23,039. Normal pay is £40,132 per year. Highly experienced workers can earn up to £74,161.

What do they do most days?

- Monitor construction work in progress to ensure compliance with specifications.
- Prepare detailed scale drawings and specifications for design and construction and submit these for planning approval.
- Analyse site surveys and advise client(s) on development and construction details and ensure that proposed designs blends in with the surrounding area.
- Study condition and characteristics of site, taking into account drainage, topsoil, trees, rock formations, etc..
- Liaise with client and other professionals to establish building type, style, cost limitations and landscaping requirements.

How do I get a job like this?

The route into this career involves a degree in Architecture. This can sometimes include a year in industry. Most universities require a Maths A-Level to enter architecture courses, but many study Art, Technology and Physics.

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

University of
Kent

The University of Kent is split across the Canterbury campus and the Medway campus. The university offers 175 undergraduate degree courses as well as a range of postgraduate courses. It ranked 40th on the Times Good University Guide in 2025.

What do the University of Kent say about studying here?

You'll join a vibrant, creative and inclusive university where we inspire each other to do outstanding things in the world. During your time here, you'll benefit from quality teaching, well-resourced libraries, extensive student support services and outstanding career guidance, plus hundreds of societies and excellent sports facilities.

The Canterbury campus is set in 300 acres of beautiful Kent parkland and is less than an hour from London with easy access to the coast and countryside, as well as mainland Europe. Medway is set by the river in a fascinating mix of modern and historical buildings and is just 40 minutes from London by train. Whilst studying with us, you'll enjoy our sports centre, cinema, a wide range of cafés, restaurants and bars, and an on-campus nightclub.

Website: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

OWEN, YEAR 8, ASPIRE STUDENT

Owen plays for a local football team, Anchorian Pumas. Last season the team managed to get promoted from Division 3 to Division 2 in the Medway District Youth League and throughout the Summer won two tournaments. Out of 15 league appearances, Owen was awarded player of the match four times. Owen has improved and grown as a player and has made new friends since joining Anchorians.



KHAYDAN, YEAR 8, ASPIRE STUDENT

Khaydan attended the Languages trip to Paris during Term 1. He has never been away with his school before and was so excited, especially at the prospect of visiting the PSG Stadium. Khaydan prepared for the trip completely on his own and we are so proud he enjoyed his time away.



We love running educational trips and visits at the Howard School. If you are interested in your son having an experience of a lifetime, keep an eye out for any updates on new trips being launched.



THOMAS, YEAR 8, ASPIRE STUDENT

Thomas trains each week at kick-boxing and has done since he was 5 years old. Last week, his instructor sent me a message to say, "Thomas was on fire in training today. Never seen him train so hard, everyone was really impressed."

Thomas also supported with the Year 6 Open Events and gave a fantastic speech on the Thursday Evening and Saturday morning. Without the contribution of these students, we wouldn't be able to promote the school in such a positive way.



Student support at our Open Events is vital and we would love all Aspire students to get involved when they can. Our next event Aspire students in Year 9 and 10 can help with is Year 8 Options Evening in Term 3.



TODAY'S TOP STRIKERS

★ JAMIE	3
★ THOMAS	2
★ GRANDDAD	2
★ GRANDDAD	2
★ JO	2
★ SIMON	2
★ DAD	2
★ OLLIE	2
★ BRIAN	2
★ SUMMER	2

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

KIAN, YEAR 7, ASPIRE STUDENT

A huge well done to Year 7 Aspire student, Kian, for being awarded Student of the Month at his Jujitsu club! Keep up the brilliant work - we are so proud of you!



ETHAN, YEAR 10, ASPIRE STUDENT

Ethan is an Aspire student in Year 10. This term he was promoted to the position of Corporal in the Air Cadets. His squadron had this to say: "What a month for Cadet Edwards. In a night of achievements, he not only completed & was awarded his Blue Leadership training badge, but was presented with the September Cadet of the Month award, his 3rd this year, highlighting him as one of the most capable & committed Cadets on the Squadron. Following such an achievement, it was only right that we followed this up with a promotion. Congratulations Corporal Edwards, well deserved."



Every Aspire newsletter will include the Student Spotlight where we can celebrate every success of our fantastic students. If you have a contribution please email dunns@thehowardschool.co.uk.