



The Howard School

Aspire Newsletter

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 2 REVIEW

ASPIRE PINS

Our Aspire pins arrived during Term 2 and were distributed to all students. This pin symbolises the hard work of an Aspire student, but also creates a sense of community. It was a great opportunity to bring the Aspire students together from each year group and celebrate them being part of this programme.



INTRODUCING OUR YEAR 7 ASPIRE STUDENTS

HIGH STANDARDS LEAD TO HIGH ACHIEVEMENT



INTRODUCING OUR YEAR 8 ASPIRE STUDENTS



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INTRODUCING OUR YEAR 9 ASPIRE STUDENTS



ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 2 REVIEW

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INTRODUCING OUR YEAR 10 ASPIRE STUDENTS



I was extremely proud to meet with all of our Aspire students and present them with their Aspire pins. Despite some initial worries, the boys have been wearing them proudly. I plan to upgrade these in the near future, as the quality is not what we had hoped for.

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

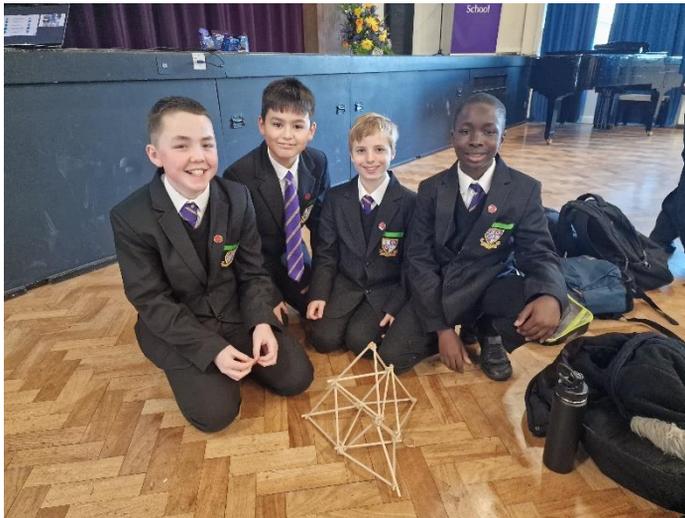
Year 7 students recently participated in an engaging and inspiring creative writing workshop led by Ms Parish and Miss Coveney. Throughout the day, they explored various forms of creative writing through a series of fun and challenging activities. One of the highlights was a timed creative writing challenge, where students were tasked with incorporating difficult words, randomly selected using dice, into their stories. Additionally, the students explored blackout poetry, creating their own works using online articles and newspapers as their canvas. I had the opportunity to join in the creative writing challenge, though the students certainly outshone me with their impressive skills. It was a fantastic day of creativity and learning, and we're excited to see how the students continue to develop their writing talents.



ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

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 a demonstration of the properties of triangles and pyramids, before working in teams to construct a smaller model, then a giant tetrahedron challenge. It was very impressive seeing the enthusiasm of our students, as well as their ability to work in a team. I am disappointed I didn't get to see the large versions at the end due to teaching, but the students were keen to tell me it was nearly the size of the Main Hall!



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

This includes:

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

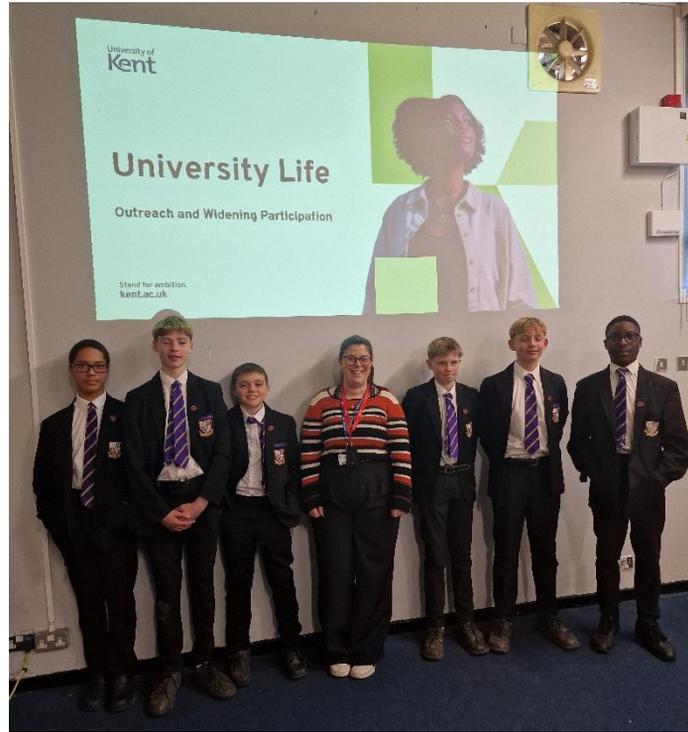
ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 1 REVIEW

UNIVERSITY LIFE WORKSHOP

At The Howard School, we pride ourselves on our strong connections with the University of Kent, regularly working together to provide valuable learning experiences for our students.

As part of this ongoing collaboration, Year 9 students recently took part in a University Life workshop hosted by the University of Kent in the Gallery Theatre. This one-hour session aimed to answer key questions about university life, helping students reflect on potential reasons for going to university, what they could study, where they might live, and how university life differs from school. The workshop concluded with a creative task in which students designed their own university societies, showcasing some truly imaginative and unique ideas. The workshop was a great success, sparking enthusiasm and thoughtful discussion about the future.

I have recently made initial contact with the University of Greenwich and Oxford University, where we are currently in talks about more outreach opportunities we can take advantage of. I'll keep you posted!



UNIVERSITY OF KENT TRIP - SPORT SCIENCE WORKSHOP

On the 4th December, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of Kent for a hands-on STEM workshop focused on Sport Science. The day began with an insightful introduction to Sport Science as a career path, followed by three engaging workshops. Students created their own sports drink, learning about the importance of correct ratios, explored the role of a performance analyst by analysing their own sports performance, and assessed the impact of reaction time after exercise. They also toured the university's state-of-the-art facilities, including an environmental chamber used by top athletes and performance analysts. It was a fantastic learning experience, offering students a real-world glimpse into the world of Sport Science.

We asked the University of Kent about this workshop following feedback from student voice and our Aspire students aspirations. Please forward me any requests about workshops or visits you would be interested in. I will try my best to organise these.



ASPIRE PROGRAMME - YEAR 10 REMINDERS

REMINDERS FOR YEAR 10 STUDENTS

This page is dedicated to our Year 10 students who are currently preparing for their English Literature GCSE next summer. Please use the calendar attached as an organisation tool to prepare effectively. There are a few revision techniques you may want to consider for your revision as well.

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%

Revision Strategies

Flashcards	Retrieval Practice
<p>Simple create with questions on one side and answers on the other side. These are great for knowledge questions that have clear answers.</p> <p>You can colour code for specific topics and quiz yourself or others.</p> <p>Recommended uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Key terms - create for key words and definitions▪ Key information - quotes, characters and themes	<p>Testing what you know is a powerful tool in revision, the effort to remember something really strengthens your memory. You can create quizzes using the following types of questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Multiple choice questions▪ True or false statements▪ Short explanation questions▪ Odd one out▪ If this is the answer then what is the question?

ASPIRE PROGRAMME - LOOKING AHEAD TO TERM 2

TERM 3 PLAN

The first two terms of the Aspire programme have gone by so quickly, and been hugely successful. 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 as the excitement around this programme grows.

The table below outlines the Aspire programme plan for Term 3. 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
2	14/1/25	10	STEM Workshop - Forensics Investigation Students will be participating in a Forensics Investigation run by MEBP in the Main Hall. Students will spend the morning practicing techniques used by forensic specialists, which may include finger printing, shoe prints, blood spatter, hair and fibre identification and graphology. In the afternoon, they will work in teams to examine a crime scene, and report back their findings using the techniques they have learned in the morning. The team considered to have come closest to solving the case will be declared the winners.
2	16/1/25	8	Year 8 Progress Meetings All Aspire students in Year 8 will be meeting with Mr Dunn or Ms Samuels during Year 8 Consultation Evening as one of their appointments. The meeting will serve as a platform for student and parent/carers voice. We will focus on the upcoming Options process and offer support and guidance to students.
4	28/1/25	8	University of Kent Trip - University Project Visit Students will visit the University of Kent in Canterbury and take place in a Project Visit Day. Students will explore a university environment, build core thinking skills and work as a team to complete a project. The project focuses on sustainability and designing new halls of residence for the university campus, consolidating all of their new learning from the visit.
5	4/2/25	10	University of Kent Workshops - Exam Success Students will be participating in a series of interactive workshops throughout the day provided by the University of Kent, but facilitated by Mr Dunn. This will take place in the Gallery Theatre. The programme contains three modules, covering: Revision Skills, Exam Techniques, and Coping with Exams. These are designed to provide students with strategies preparing for exams, but also coping with stress.
6	11/2/25	9	University of Kent Trip - STEM Lego Robotics Workshop Students will visit the University of Kent in Canterbury and take place in a full day learning about robotics. Students will be provided with LEGO Spike Prime sets and given a variety of challenges from constructing different robots to coding different actions with word blocks. Each group will also get a chance for their constructed and programmed robots to compete against one another. There are limited spaces for this visit.



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 3 for Year 7 Aspire students as they had two activities in Term 2. They will continue to have termly Aspire activities throughout the year.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

MR JULIAN (DEPUTY HEAD OF SIXTH FORM AND SOCIOLOGY LEAD)

What A Levels did you study?

History, Sociology and Geography.

What did you study at University?

I have a first-class combined honours degree in History and Sociology (BA).

Where did you go to University?

I went to the University of Portsmouth.

What did you enjoy learning about the most at University?

One of my favourite modules at University was Football and Society. In this we studied the importance of football in English culture and how supporting a team plays a role in the lives of many. We also studied the impact of the Hillsborough Tragedy on English football and how it led to widespread changes in terms of fan safety and the policing of football matches.

What inspires you most about History and Sociology?

I have always been fascinated about the social aspects of the past; how people lived their lives, what they experienced and how they coped with the challenges of life through different time periods. I recently visited Berlin where I was able to see how people lived through the Nazi years, how the city was then divided during the Cold War, resulting in huge social, cultural and ideological changes for generations to come.



MRS D'AMIRAL (TEACHER OF MUSIC)

What A Levels did you study?

Music, History, English Literature and AS Level German and Music Technology

What did you study at University?

I have a combined honours degree in Music and History (BA/BSc)

Where did you go to University?

I went to Canterbury Christ Church University.

What did you enjoy learning about the most at University?

Performing! I am a flautist and I enjoyed the performing seminars the most and in my final year I opted not to complete a dissertation, but to perform a 20 minute recital instead. My other specialisms were popular music and ethnomusicology (world music), with a focus on the Beatles album Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. In History, I opted for the modern history modules, studying The Cold War and The War in Vietnam - I'm most interested in how history informs life today.

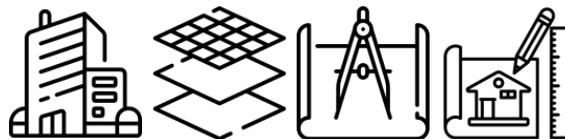
What inspires you most about Music?

Music unites! I didn't become a musician to be a soloist - I have had the best experiences of my life performing in and directing musical ensembles of different types and sizes. From directing my choir in Canterbury Cathedral to travelling the world to perform, I have made memories and friendships to last a lifetime. It is a privilege to watch and support young (and older!) musicians to grow in confidence, understanding and general musicianship, forge relationships and experience success.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

SOLICITORS AND LAWYERS



What is an architect?

Solicitors advise and act on behalf of individuals, organisations, businesses and government departments in legal matters.

What is the wage of an architect?

New workers start around £24,855. Normal pay is £46,709 per year. Highly experienced workers can earn up to £84,126.

What do they do most days?

- Represents clients in court.
- Scrutinises statements, reports and legal documents relevant to the case being undertaken and prepares papers for court.
- Instructs counsel in higher and lower courts and pleads cases in lower courts as appropriate.
- Undertakes legal business on behalf of client in areas of business law, criminal law, probate, conveyancing and litigation, and acts as trustee or executor if required.
- Draws up contracts, leases, wills and other legal documents.

How do I get a job like this?

The route into this career involves a degree in Law. This can sometimes include a year on a placement in a law firm or a year abroad studying. Some students will do a law conversion degree if they have studied another subject such as Geography at University, which can lead to specialisms such as Environmental Law.

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

The University of Liverpool is a city campus university. It opened in 1881 when it became the original redbrick. It is a globally recognised Russell group university which is home to valued research and lively, original thinking.

What do the University of Liverpool say about studying here?

First-class, state of the art facilities and outstanding student support ensures the university is consistently ranked amongst the top 30 universities in the UK, having recently risen to 19th (Complete University Guide 2025). You'll be right at home on our beautiful campus. Your department, libraries, the sports centre and the Guild of Students are never more than a short walk away. What's more, the city centre – a world-famous hub for culture, shopping, and socialising – is just 10 minutes down the hill.

On and off campus, you'll meet people and ideas of every kind. It makes learning here a uniquely rich experience. And it shows that, when it comes to our civic roots, we're as open and accessible as we've always been. You'll have lots of green spaces, cafes, bars and restaurants on campus and nearby independents in places like Hope Street. City centre is a 10-minute walk.

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