



# The Howard School

*Aspire Newsletter*

# ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 4 REVIEW

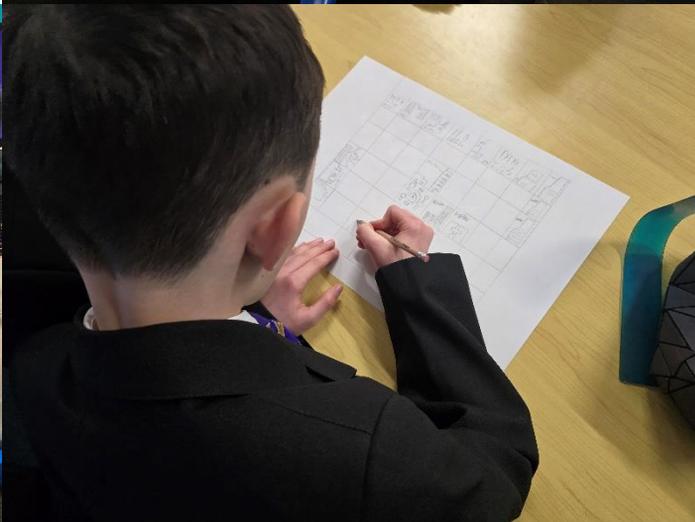
## STEM WORKSHOP - K'NEX CHALLENGE

Year 8 Aspire students recently took part in an exciting K'Nex STEM Challenge, working in small groups to design and build a model in response to a topical brief set by an external facilitator. Using K'Nex components, students demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills as they brought their imaginative designs to life. It was a fantastic opportunity to apply STEM learning in a fun and hands-on way!



## ASPIRE WORKSHOP - BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

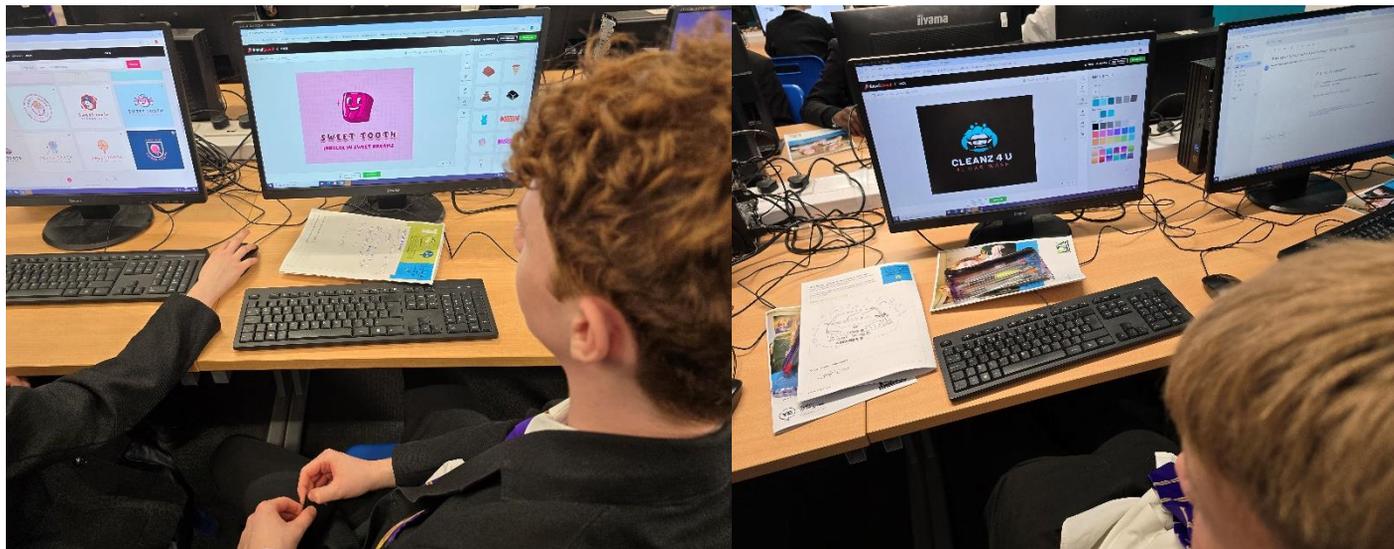
As part of British Science Week, Year 8 Aspire students took part in an engaging Aspire workshop focused on energy production and sustainability. They began by exploring the UK's current energy mix and learning about the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The workshop included an interactive online game where students faced real-world challenges as they designed their own sustainable cities - balancing the need to generate green energy, keep citizens happy, and manage finances. Drawing on everything they had learned, the boys then used their creativity to design and present their own sustainable city plans. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop critical thinking and apply scientific knowledge to global issues.



# ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 4 REVIEW

## ASPIRE WORKSHOP - YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Our Year 9 Aspire students recently took part in the Young Enterprise 10x DIY Challenge, an exciting workshop designed to spark entrepreneurial thinking. Starting with just £10, students worked in teams to research, plan, and pitch their own start-up business ideas. Through hands-on activities, they explored key aspects of launching a business - such as market research, business planning, and creating a persuasive sales pitch. The challenge culminated in a series of fantastic presentations, with ideas ranging from car services and healthy takeaways to live music events. The creativity, teamwork, and business acumen on display were truly impressive. A great introduction to the world of enterprise!



A huge thank you to Miss Ashbee (Head of Business Studies and Enterprise) who supported with the workshop, giving the boys valuable knowledge to complete this successfully. We took some student voice at the end of the session and many of the boys said they would have preferred more time to plan and research their businesses. We completely agree and will be making these changes for next year. I am so proud how much the boys got involved in this workshop and hopefully they found it interesting and useful.

# ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 4 REVIEW

## ASPIRE WORKSHOP - FINAL PLANNING FOR ENGLISH LIT

Our Year 10 Aspire students recently took part in an invaluable workshop designed to support their final preparations for the upcoming English Literature GCSE exam. Led by Miss Anglin and Mr Dunn, the workshop provided focused, practical strategies to help students feel confident and fully prepared as they enter the final stretch of revision.

In the first session, Miss Anglin delivered a masterclass on tackling the Macbeth question - an essential part of the exam. Students explored what's required to achieve top grades, breaking down subject-specific terminology and analysing past exam questions to understand the most effective style of exam writing. The session offered clear, actionable insights into how to craft high-level responses with precision and confidence.

The second session, led by Mr Dunn, focused on revision techniques and how to structure an effective study plan. Students were introduced to a variety of proven strategies for retaining information and managing their time efficiently in the weeks leading up to the exam.

To support students further, we've shared a wide range of resources, including personalised revision timetables and access to an online platform packed with bespoke materials tailored to their needs. This workshop has not only helped students sharpen their exam skills but has also given them a structured path forward, boosting both their knowledge and their confidence. It's been a fantastic opportunity to ensure our Aspire students are as prepared and supported as possible.



# ASPIRE PROGRAMME - TERM 4 REVIEW

## UNIVERSITY OF KENT TRIP - LEGO ROBOTICS

Our Year 9 Aspire students had a fantastic opportunity to spend the day at the University of Kent in Canterbury, taking part in an exciting LEGO Robotics workshop. The full-day experience introduced students to the world of robotics and coding, using LEGO Spike Prime sets to bring their creations to life. Working in teams, students were challenged to build and programme robots using word block coding, with tasks ranging from basic movements to more advanced actions. The highlight of the day was a friendly competition where each group showcased their robots' skills in a dance-off, combining creativity, teamwork, and technical know-how. The workshop not only introduced students to key STEM concepts in a fun, hands-on way but also gave them a taste of university life and what it's like to engage in practical learning beyond the classroom. It was a brilliant day that inspired curiosity, problem-solving, and plenty of laughter!



## STEM WORKSHOP - LEGO HOUSE BUILDING CHALLENGE

Our Year 7 Aspire students recently took part in an exciting STEM workshop run by MEBP, where they took on the challenge of designing and building their own LEGO houses. Working in teams, students were given a limited budget and had to 'purchase' LEGO components to construct their buildings - encouraging them to think strategically about design, cost, and accuracy.

Once the houses were completed, students compared their finished models to their original designs and calculated how well they had managed their spending. The winning team was the one with the most accurate and cost-effective design, combining creativity with problem-solving and teamwork.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop key STEM skills in a fun and engaging way, with a focus on budgeting, planning, and collaboration. A great introduction to applied learning and critical thinking!

**Unfortunately I was teaching a full day and unable to take photos of this workshop. I did briefly get to visit the Gallery Theatre during the construction phase, where students were hard at work and enjoying the workshop.**

# 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 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Year 10 Aspire Progress Meetings
Term 2 - Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Year 10 English Literature GCSE Information Evening
Term 3 - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 10 English Literature Component 1 Mock
Term 4 - Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year 10 Parents Evening
Term 4 - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Year 10 English Literature Component 2 Mock
<b>Term 5 - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>English Literature GCSE Exam - Component 1</b>
<b>Term 5 - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>English Literature GCSE Exam - Component 2</b>
Term 6 - Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	University of Kent Campus Visit
Term 6 - Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Term 6 - Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	Year 10 Mock Exam Week
Term 6 - Week beginning 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Year 10 Food Technology Practical Mocks
Term 6 - Week beginning 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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"><li>▪ Key terms - create for key words and definitions</li><li>▪ Key information - quotes, characters and themes</li></ul>	<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"><li>▪ Multiple choice questions</li><li>▪ True or false statements</li><li>▪ Short explanation questions</li><li>▪ Odd one out</li><li>▪ If this is the answer then what is the question?</li></ul>

# ASPIRE PROGRAMME - LOOKING AHEAD TO TERM 5

## TERM 5 PLAN

Term 5 is a very short term, so we have the lowest amount of Aspire workshops and events taking place so far this academic year. There are no Aspire events this term for Year 10 as I want them to focus on their English Lit GCSE exams, but they will return to the plan in Term 6. As always, if you have any recommendations for workshops or events, please contact me directly and I'll look into it.

Week	Date	Year Group	Details
3	6/5/25	7	<b>Aspire Workshop - Endangered species workshop</b> Our Year 7 Aspire students will soon take part in an exciting workshop focused on endangered species and the importance of conservation. This interactive session will introduce students to the challenges facing wildlife around the world and inspire them with a look into the diverse careers in conservation. Working in groups, students will research an endangered species of their choice and create a presentation to share with their peers - developing not only their knowledge of global issues but also their teamwork, research, and communication skills.
3	8/5/25	9	<b>Aspire Workshop - Revision strategies and preparing for mocks</b> Students will participate in a workshop led by Mr Dunn which is designed to equip them with powerful revision strategies ahead of their upcoming mock exams in Term 6. The session aims to build confidence, improve study habits and help students take control of their own learning. This will prepare our students for their immediate assessments, but also lays the foundation for long-term academic success as they progress through their GCSE years.
5	W/B 19/5/25	9	<b>Year 9 Progress Meetings</b> All Aspire students in Year 9 will be meeting with Mr Dunn or Ms Samuels during Term 5 following parents evening. The meeting will serve as a platform for student and parent/carers voice. We will focus on reviewing each students start to their GCSE courses, the progress they are making and any support they need for the upcoming mock exams and beyond.
5	21/5/25	8	<b>Aspire Workshop - UK Parliament Debating</b> Students will soon participate in an engaging and dynamic workshop focused on developing their debating skills. It will begin with quick debate topics and decision-making exercises, allowing students to think on their feet before they move on to preparing for a formal debate with their peers.

## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

### VERTERINARIANS



#### What is a veterinarian?

Veterinarians diagnose and treat animal injuries, diseases and disorders, and advise on preventative action. They may work in practices, specialising according to their location in either a rural or urban area, or in the public sector or associated industries such as pharmaceuticals, food production or drug regulation.

#### What is the wage of an physiotherapist?

New workers start around £15,277.9. Normal pay is £42,743 per year. Highly experienced workers can earn up to £71,568.

#### What do they do most days?

- Maintains records, raises and forwards reports and certificates in compliance with current legislation.
- Performs ante-mortem inspection of animals destined for the food chain, and animal post-mortem examinations.
- Performs tasks relating to food safety policy, regulation of veterinary drugs, quality control of veterinary products.
- Euthanises old, sick, terminally ill and unwanted animals.
- Investigates outbreaks of animal diseases and advises owners on feeding, breeding and general care.
- Administers local or general anaesthetics and performs surgery.
- Examines animals, diagnoses condition and prescribes and administers appropriate drugs, dressings, etc., and arranges or undertakes any necessary x-ray or other tests.

#### How do I get a job like this?

The route into this career involves a veterinary degree approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Entry to courses is highly competitive. Further training and specialisation is also possible through internships, residencies, and postgraduate studies.

## UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

### UNIVERISTY OF OXFORD



# UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The University of Oxford, established in the 12th century, is the oldest university in the English-speaking world and renowned globally for its academic excellence. With a rich tradition of research, teaching, and innovation, Oxford continues to shape leaders and ideas that impact the world.

#### What do the University of Oxford say about studying here?

Studying at the University of Oxford is a transformative experience that combines academic intensity with a deep sense of tradition and community. Students benefit from a world-class education delivered through the tutorial system, where they engage in personalized, one-on-one or small-group discussions with leading academics—an approach that challenges them to think critically, articulate ideas clearly, and develop original insights. Each student belongs to a college, which serves as both an academic and social hub, offering a close-knit environment within the larger university. Beyond lectures and libraries, Oxford life includes countless opportunities for extracurricular involvement, from student-run societies and sports teams to music, theatre, and volunteering. The city's historic architecture and vibrant student culture create a unique backdrop for learning and personal growth, making the Oxford experience both intellectually rigorous and richly rewarding.

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

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## JACOB, YEAR 7 ASPIRE STUDENT

A huge well done to Year 7 Aspire student, Jacob. He was recently awarded Junior Life Saver of the Year for Kent by the Royal Life Saving Society UK. This is really impressive and we are so proud of you!



## OWEN, YEAR 8 ASPIRE STUDENT

Year 8 Aspire student, Owen, has smashed it again and got man of the match during an amazing effort for Anchorians FC. Well done and keep up the good work!



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](mailto:dunns@thehowardschool.co.uk).

