



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions. Also Lauren (Aspire Administrator) can be contacted for any requests for meetings or appointments - thank you - lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk.

Water Shortage -

Thank you for your support this week, whilst we have tried to navigate the water outage. Unfortunately just like members of the community we received very little information from South East water and so were relying on updates from local staff and members of the community. Ulcombe and Kingswood especially have had unreliable intermittent water. As leaders we were conscious that working and busy parents need as much notice as possible so we made decisions based on the information we had the evening before. Thank you for your support for the online line lessons and those who attended the childcare offer at Leeds and Broomfield.

I met with Helen Whately on Thursday 15th January to discuss the issues we have experienced. She informed me she has been speaking in the house of commons about the issue and you can follow her progress on her facebook page. Helen did inform me that she is aware that there may be further problems with the Hollingbourne pumping station, but did not have any further information at the point of the meeting. I will of course inform parents/ carers of any further information I receive.

Maidstone Grammar School for Girls Open Days(MGGS)-

Forthcoming **Year 5 Taster Lesson - A Medley of MFL** which provides an opportunity for both parents and students to experience the vibrant community and outstanding education offered MGGS.

This session is a fantastic way for Year 5 students to get a taste of life at MGGS: A Medley of MFL is to take place on **Wednesday, 4th February 2026, 4.00pm - 5.00pm**. Girls will be introduced to French at MGGS. At MGGS Year 7 students currently study two language options, French and also either Spanish or German.

To book for this event visit-

<https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/open-events-for-joining-in-year-7/#y5transition>

Parent online courses-

New Education Support Courses are FULLY FUNDED (Free) to attend and specifically designed for parents and carers who are looking for a springboard into working in a school. Each course only takes 6 weeks to complete, with online sessions run ONLY in school hours and term times, to fit in around family life.

The next course starts on **Monday 2nd February**. Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.

To learn more or book visit- <https://www.studysmartuk.online/>

The Dogs house-

Channel 4's The Dog House is looking for local families to offer a loving home to a rescue dog and share their reasons why on the show! If you're interested, find out more here:

c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk or email thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk."

Artsmark-

During the last two years, Platts Heath on behalf of Aspire (awards can only go to individual schools) has been focusing on developing and improving the creative arts offer that we provide for the children.

I am delighted to inform you that Platts Heath(Aspire) have been successful in achieving a Silver Award in a nationally recognised programme known as Artsmark.

This is a significant achievement and is valid for two years. Some of the highlights linked to this success are as follows:

- We have moved to a focus on process, individual development, collective responsibility and inclusivity. This has had impact on how we deliver across the whole curriculum
- We have seen increased engagement by pupils and improved learning outcomes as a result
- Children have opportunities to explore their creativity and arts/culture are linked to wider learning experiences
- We have expanded music on offer to pupils with access to class and individual instrument tuition
- Our Creative Council actively contribute to the planning and delivery of arts and experiences and take ownership of driving this throughout the school

Platts Heath will display the following logo on school letters in recognition of this success.

Well done and thank you to Mr Waters and the Team for receiving this Award.

Happy News-

It is with great joy and delight that I can confirm that Mrs Scarry gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on 30th December. She weighed 7lbs 3oz. Mum and baby are home and doing well - fondly referred to as Little Sister, we are still waiting on confirmation of a name, but I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Scarry huge congratulations!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher

