



Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all 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 my PA can be contacted at lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk. Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

Young Voices-

Children from all four schools had an amazing day at Young Voices on Monday. It was a long day but the children said afterwards that the tiredness was worth it.

From the comments received, the Pop Medley was popular, as always, and the children also particularly enjoyed the rave!

Well done to everybody who went. If you want to buy a DVD of the event, the link is here.
<https://yv25film.co.uk/>

FREE 11+ Preparation and KS2 Learning Support-

Maidstone Grammar School has partnered with Atom Learning to provide free KS2 learning and 11+ preparation to primary school children (both boys and girls) who are eligible for Pupil Premium. To be eligible for pupil premium your child must be receiving benefits related free schools meals.

Atom Home is an online learning and 11+ preparation platform for children aged 7–11. This helps children build confidence in Key Stage 2 subjects and familiarises them with 1+ English, maths, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning.

Atom Home gives children access to practice questions, mock tests, video tutorials and more.

For those eligible for pupil premium to access these resources you can complete the form at <https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/maidstone-grammar> or to find out more you can email- pupilpremium@atomlearning.com.

Kent Cynophobia Assistance Group-

Cynophobia is a fear of dogs. This group has been set up by Volunteers to help support people to overcome these fears.

This group meets on a Monday at 5.30-6.30pm at Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall (ME173PX).

This group has been running for more than 10 years and celebrates a lot of success.

Please see leaflet attached for more information or email janet@goodog.co.uk.

Mental Health Week-

As you are aware all Aspire Schools recognised Mental Health week this week in school.

I just wanted to highlight that Mental Health.org has some really helpful advice and guidance on their website to support parents/carers, from helping their children with their wellbeing and mental health to helping a neighbour. It also highlights further links for resources and guidance.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health>

Half Term Family Fun-

If you are wanting some fun days out in the half term the following website may help to inspire you to have a day out with the family-

<https://familiesonline.co.uk/kent/whats-on-kent-february-half-term/>

There is also now an App you can download that provides discount to Kent Families for various attractions over the School Holidays.

<https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/hub/parenting/kent-school-holidays>

Free School Meals Vouchers-

For those families who are eligible for FSM Vouchers, please keep an eye out in your inbox for the half term food voucher for £10.

INSET DAY-

Please be reminded that the last day of term is NEXT Friday (14th February) and that Monday 24th February is an Inset day, children return to school on Tuesday 24th February.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher