



Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Term 1. I hope that you all had a wonderful break and that the children were excited to return to school to continue their learning journey and see their friends and ASPIRE staff.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@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](mailto:lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk). Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

### **Kent Test-**

Those Year 6 pupils who have already been submitted by parents/carers back in June/July, will be taking the Kent Test **next Thursday 12th September**.

Each pupil takes the test in their own school, under assessment conditions. The test is carried out by two or more members of staff, where on some occasions, a visiting member of staff from another school within the local area may swap to invigilate on the day to ensure compliance, this is always led by KCC.

### **The Paper-**

There are three tests – English, Maths and Reasoning, taken on one day. Children also complete a 40-minute writing task, which is not marked.

The tests are in multiple-choice format. Children's answer sheets are marked by a computer, to a high level of accuracy.

The first test will be an English and Maths paper and will take 1 hour. Each section will involve a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test.

The English section will involve a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions to test literacy skills.

The third test will be a Reasoning paper (verbal and non-verbal). It will take about 1 hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length.

There will also be a writing exercise which will take place either in the afternoon, or directly after the first three tests, depending on how the individual school decides to do this. This is also carried out in assessment conditions. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time. The writing task is not marked but may be used in an appeals panel as part of the headteacher assessment stage of the process - which takes place at the end of September.

Results-

**The assessment results will be sent on Thursday 17th October 2024 after 4pm.** These can only be emailed to the email address you supplied when registering your child. If your child receives a 'G', this means Grammar and if your child receives a 'H', this indicates High School.

On the Day-

We advise that your child tries to have an early night before Thursday and have a good breakfast on the day. Children will be able to have water bottles and a snack during the morning when we stop for a break, so please ensure they bring this with them.

### **Aspire Conference-**

For the second year, staff at all ASPIRE Schools attended a conference on Monday 2nd September to begin the start of a new Academic Year. This was held off site, and was focussed on 'Adapting learning so that all can flourish'

At the conference members of staff were nominated for our annual awards for various contributions made to school or attributes that they have brought to school throughout the last academic year. Categories range from - Curriculum contribution to innovator of the year. There are ten awards in total. Although it was a tough decision to pick a member of staff for each award, due to having dedicated members of staff throughout, I would like to congratulate those that were chosen this year and thank them for their continued dedication to inspire all the children within our schools and to keep each school a caring and safe environment to be in.



Alongside this, we also celebrated staff members that have been part of the ASPIRE family for 5,10,15,20,25 ... and even 50+ years, with a badge that you may see on their lanyard. I am very pleased that we have such devoted members of staff that remain committed to ASPIRE. Thank you to all. I personally was able to celebrate the 20 years I have worked with the schools within Aspire.

## **New Appointment to the SEND and Well-being ASPIRE Team-**

I am happy to inform you that Mrs Russell has joined the SEND and Wellbeing team across ASPIRE this September.

Mrs Russell has been appointed as SEND Assistant working at Kingswood and Platts Heath and also as the Family Liaison Officer for all four ASPIRE schools. Her time will be split across the schools to provide this support.

Mrs Russell has experience of working previously at one of our ASPIRE schools as a HLTA supporting SEND children and families, where she brings a wealth of knowledge with her. We are looking forward to her working with us across ASPIRE and we hope you get the opportunity to meet her soon. We know you will give her a warm welcome.

## **Aspire Olympics-**

Whilst it seems a distant memory, all Aspire Schools took part in our very own 'Olympics' at the end of the summer term.



Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield, Platts Heath and Ulcombe came together across two sites to take part in a whole day of sporting activities and events to celebrate a year of successful sporting achievements by all, and to round the summer off with a fun filled day linked to the pending Olympics!



Across term 6, all children in Aspire schools took the opportunity to learn about the history of the Olympics and to promote Paris 2024.

This was drawn to a close, with our own Olympics day where all children, of all abilities, were able to showcase their skills and to set and beat, personal targets in a number of activities.

There was an inflatable assault course where children (and staff!) had fun racing each other, a football tournament hosted and run by EMC Academy and athletic based activities such as long jump, javelin, shot put and the hammer!

The day was a roaring success with every child achieving and most importantly, having loads of fun!

A huge thank you to all staff from all 4 schools. Without your help, the day would not have been possible.

Here's to another great year of sport at Apsire!

Thank you to all parents for your support and bringing the children back ready for another exciting year.

Kind regards,  
Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher