

Message from the Headteacher

First of all, I would like to extend my best wishes to all our families and I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well during this very challenging time. I know that many families have anxieties about what the future holds in terms of when Aspire will reopen and how we plan to keep everyone safe when all students return. Please be assured that we are already assessing different models as to how this will work and at the heart of all our discussions at the moment is the safety of both staff and students alike. Once the Government make the decision for schools to reopen I will write to all families explaining how we, at Aspire, will implement our plans.

Another issue that we are working on, this time together, is the concept of home schooling. Educating our own children at home isn't easy and it can be very challenging to develop a routine that fits in, for example, around parental work or caring for vulnerable adults. Balancing leading Aspire and teaching my son at home has presented me with a greater challenge than I could ever have imagined! However, it is vital that we work at home with our children to ensure that knowledge gaps do not appear that hinders future progress. Prior to the lockdown Aspire invested heavily in revision guides and workbooks for all children (year 11 were issued with these earlier in the year). We did this to ensure all students were provided with high quality work materials they could use for study at home regardless of their access to computers or the internet. The feedback from parental surveys has been overwhelmingly positive regarding the workbook offer and approximately 60% of respondents state that their children prefer this method of working. There are still workbooks in school for families that have any missing and can be collected from the temporary entrance during school hours. In addition to the fabulous workbook offer, we have also created a substantial online offer, including Google Classrooms packed full of activities for students to complete. Each week the school website is updated with suggested tasks for each year group and subject area. This includes both workbook

and online activities. If you have any general difficulties then a quick email to admin@aspire.fcat.co.uk, which is checked daily should resolve any issues. Difficulties with specific work for specific subjects should be referred to the subject emails – these can be found in our remote learning section of the school website. Again, these are checked daily so issues with, for example, Google Classroom codes can be resolved very quickly.

Clearly, in these difficult times, wellbeing is of greater importance than ever and we are engaging with all families via phone calls. We have redeployed some of our staff to work solely on making wellbeing calls to ensure that you have everything you need to successfully home school your children. Please use these calls as an opportunity to feedback with any concerns that you have and make any suggestions you feel would improve our remote learning service at this time. Home schooling is tough for all of us so please don't suffer in silence if you think we can help.

Finally, we are in the process of switching our Free School Meal offer from the food parcels, available from the temporary entrance during school hours, to the Government voucher scheme. This scheme has had many teething issues and, as a result, families have been left with nothing for several weeks. At Aspire the parcel offer will be in place until the voucher scheme is up and running properly. I will communicate with all families when the voucher scheme is ready.

Can I thank you for all your hard work around home schooling and I look forward to reopening Aspire for all students when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Warmest regards,

John Woods
Headteacher

Year 11 Examinations

We live in unprecedented times and you will be aware that the Government has cancelled all summer 2020 examinations. Instead these will be replaced with 'Centre Assessed Estimated Gradings'. These are currently being put together in schools across the land. Teaching staff are working hard in the background to provide accurate estimates for students in all of their subjects. This has been communicated in letter form to all Year 11 families, however, I just want to reiterate that all grading decisions taken are based on all the evidence schools have at their disposal including PPE data. The gradings cannot be shared with parents/carers or students at any time during this process. Students will collect their grades in the normal way on Thursday 20th August. Further details will be sent out closer to the time. In the meantime, year 11 students should still be engaging with the remote learning offer on the school website, which contains lots of careers based learning. Phil Palfrey, our independent careers advisor, is in the process of contacting all students to ensure that they have concrete plans in place for September. If you have any queries, please communicate them through the admin@aspire.fcat.org.uk email, which is checked daily.

Top Scholars

Aspire has been founded on a scholarly work ethic as evidenced by improving exam outcomes each year. It is our belief that without 'struggle' there can be no progress, therefore, the work we set our young scholars is always challenging. Many students have taken their scholarly work ethic into their home studies and the Aspire staff have sent in a list of those who are considered to be Top Scholars as a result of their recent hard work. See if you can spot your child in the list.



Maths:

Kerian Lightowers, Kacy Dakin, Ellie Grant, Jakub Strzelecki, Kellsie Pasquill, Natalie Sanders, Brandon Bradshaw, Jay Stevenson, Elisa Richardson, Richard Schollar, Vilaxshi Srikantharasa

Health and Fitness:

Olivia Wright, Sean Precious, Demi-Leigh Faulkner, Dahla Barrat

English:

Kacy Dakin, Finley Barr, Grace Shepherd, Sophie Hamer, Summer Molyneux, Libby Sarjantson, Natalie Sanders, Lois Thompson, Logan Allen, Ed Perry, Thinusha Varatharajan, Lucy Mae Cheatle, Becky Fuller, Joseph McGuinness, Ryan Stevenson, Bradley Lander, Vilaxshi Srikantharasa, Sarah Bullough, Weronika Geronka, Ryan Nicholls, Richard Scholler, Matthew Taylor, Colbie Champlin, Amelia Hill, Ethan Chappell, Amy Hallett, Morgan Townley

Science:

Caitlyn Smith, Colbie Champlin, Lucy-Mae Cheatle, Brandon Parker, Edward Perry, Natalie Sanders, Michelle Marks, Klaudia Kecik and Byron Lillie

Performing Arts:

Edward Perry

Business:

Paige Reynolds

Digital Technology:

Ellie Grant & Grace Shepherd (Yr 7); Chloe Balfour & Willow Neal (Yr 8); Brandon Parker & Isabella Gardner (Yr 9); Ryan Stevenson & Olivia Wright (Yr 10)

Art:

Finley Barr, Alexia Burrows, Ethan Cuthbertson & Crystal Seel (Yr 7); Natalie Sanders, Joshua Haines, Abigail Hughes & Zack Mein (Yr 8)

Catering:

Amy-Lee Worthington, Elle Payne, Grace Shepherd, Emily Jackson, Chloe Patterson, Andrew-Jay Longden

History:

Ellie Grant, Lacey Dobson, Ruby-Leigh Cheatle, Denis Lebanov, Libby Jones, Edward Perry, Brandon Parker, Lucy-Mae Cheatle, Becky Fuller, Ryan Nicholls, Maciej Oracz, Richard Schollar, Josh Cuthbertson.

Geography:

Logan Allen, Natalie Sanders, Edward Perry, Kobi Allen

Sarah Bullough, Olivia Wright, Colbie Champlin, Jordan Dean, Amy Hallet

RE:

Evan Blackwell, Wendy Lawrie, Mollie Longthorne

Weekly Student Quiz:

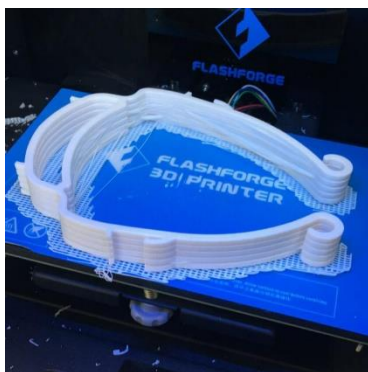
Ed Perry and Lucy-Mae Cheatle.

Well done to everyone!

The Man in the Mask!

Aspire Academy sent a donation of protective headgear to Blackpool Victoria Hospital thanks to Mr Barnhurst and our 3D printer.

Mr Barnhurst spent several days over the Easter break creating the visors, which are designed to protect hospital staff from coronavirus,



consisting of a clear plastic visor sheet and a headband.

In total Aspire donated around 100 visors, 300 clear visor sheets, over 100 pairs of safety glasses and a number of aprons.

Everything was packaged and sent to the hospital where staff were delighted to receive them.



Well done Mr Barnhurst!

In the News!

Whilst most students are working hard at home, a small number of children of Key Workers have been in school. Golden Hours have been

modified to ensure strict social distancing is in place and that has led to some creative thinking from the Aspire staff. This was typified by Mr Jenkinson Assistant Director of Maths & The Extended Curriculum who took our students on nature trail with a twist!

Well done Mr Jenkinson for your creativity and providing Aspire students with a memorable experience.



Useful Information

Suggested work for students can be found on the school website alongside additional tasks for

<https://www.aspireacademy.co.uk>

