

3rd September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,



Welcome back

As the new Headteacher, it is my pleasure to welcome all our students into Aspire for the forthcoming academic year. As I am sure you are aware Aspire's outcomes this summer are once again very strong across the whole curriculum. They represent the best results in the school's history for the third year in a row. These results are testament to the hard work of all our young scholars and the dedication and skill of all our staff.

In order to continue this positive results trajectory it is important that all our students buy into our scholarly ethos and work hard each day, making each and every one Golden Hour count. There are 975 Golden Hours in every academic year and we require attendance to be as close to 100% for every student if they are to maximise the learning opportunities in school. This also includes being on time for school every single day – the one minute late, one hour detention rule is still in place – with the correct uniform and equipment including a bag.

To support learning further and continue to build on our scholarly foundations, Prep – where students produce one page of A4 work every night using their Golden Knowledge Organisers – will resume from Wednesday 4th September. All years except year 10 are involved from the outset. Year 10 will commence Prep at the end of September. The first hand in for Prep this year will be Thursday 5th September. The only time a student can hand in prep is to their form tutor during morning registration or if the student is late to school, at student services on their arrival. If a student does not hand in their prep they will receive a one hour Prep Correction that night. Parents will be informed via text message. In previous years we have allowed prep to be handed in at any time during the school day. This is no longer acceptable. Please encourage your child to complete their prep in advance to ensure that they are organised going forward and avoid Prep Corrections. The research around prep is clear - completing work each night using the Look, Cover, Check Model (details of which can be found under prep on the school website) aids knowledge acquisition and retention and boosts grades. Two times per week (Yr7-10), Three times a week (YR11) all students will attend a morning meeting with a member of the senior leadership team where they will be tested on key knowledge from the prep work.

All staff at Aspire have high expectations of your children and want them to enjoy our knowledge rich curriculum so that they can leave us with high quality, high level qualifications in order to have the Golden Futures they deserve. As the new Headteacher my vision for the school is to develop the curriculum further, ensuring that learning is at the centre of everything we do and continue to build on our scholarly culture allowing all learners to flourish and be the best that they can be!

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Woods
Headteacher