



Digital Technology & Business Department Newsletter

New Year!

Welcome to the new school year! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and that the students have returned refreshed and ready to learn. Just like last year, this newsletter will keep you updated every half term on what your child is focusing on in class, alongside celebrating their wonderful successes. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

What we are learning

Year 7	In the first lesson students will be receiving their Aspire accounts and will gain an understanding of Acceptable Use Policy for using our network at Aspire. We will then move onto looking at Artificial Intelligence, with a focus on using Artificial Intelligence safely and sensibly.
Year 8	This half term, Year 8 will dive into the world of Data and Information. We will explore the key differences between the two, as well as the various ways data is gathered and stored in the real world. To bring this to life, students will then step into the role of data analysts to collect and examine their very own datasets for the fictional company "Jolly Holidays".
Year 9	This half term, we revisit Computer Graphics with a focus on the power of simplicity. We will be teaching students how to build complex, detailed graphics starting with just one basic shape. They will then apply these techniques to their own project: designing and bringing to life their own treasure map.
Year 10 Business	We are excited to welcome students to this qualification and introduce them to their very first Controlled Assessment, which accounts for 30% of their final grade. They will kick off the project by analysing a specific scenario, before heading out to conduct primary research to discover exactly what their target customers are looking for.
Year 10 Dig Tech	We are excited to welcome students to this new qualification and introduce their very first Controlled Assessment, which accounts for 30% of their final grade. The focus of this project is creating a spreadsheet model. To ensure everyone feels fully confident and prepared, students will spend time completing skill-building exercises before tackling the official task.
Year 11 Business	Students will be hitting the ground running this term as they put the finishing touches on their second Controlled Assessment, which makes up 30% of their final grade. Alongside this, we will continue covering the essential theory needed for their upcoming January exam, continuing our deep dive into the Marketing Mix and exploring how small businesses use it to succeed.
Year 11 Dig Tech	Students will hit the ground running this term as they put the finishing touches on their second Controlled Assessment (which makes up 30% of their final grade). Alongside finalising this project, we will continue covering the core content needed for their January exam. We'll start by revisiting the various design tools used to create digital solutions, weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of each.



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Revision Tip – The Pomodoro Technique

Students are assessed regularly throughout the academic year and one of the biggest barriers in being able to focus for a concentrated period of time.

One effective way for students to revise is by using the Pomodoro Technique. This method helps combat procrastination and burnout by breaking study sessions into highly focused, manageable chunks. To use it, students pick a single topic to focus on, remove all distractions (like putting their phone in another room), and set a timer for 25 minutes of completely uninterrupted work. When the timer goes off, they take a mandatory 5-minute break to stretch, grab a drink, or step away from their desk, before starting the next 25-minute block.

By using these structured bursts of focus followed by guaranteed rest, students maintain higher concentration levels and absorb information much more effectively without feeling overwhelmed.

Careers Focus

A qualification in Business opens the door to a wide array of exciting career paths, with marketing being a standout option. Marketing professionals are the driving force behind how an organisation connects with its customers and promotes its products. The day-to-day work is highly varied—from conducting market research and launching creative ad campaigns, to managing social media and analysing performance data. It is a perfect fit for students who love blending creativity with problem-solving and communication.

Graduates often step into roles like marketing assistant or social media coordinator, with clear pathways to becoming a marketing manager, brand manager, or digital marketing specialist. Because every industry relies on strong marketing to grow, this field offers incredible variety and excellent long-term career progression.

Students can find out more by looking on their Unifrog account. If you have any questions about careers at Aspire, please get in touch with Mr Ewart (d.ewart@aspire.fcat.org.uk)

Email Accounts

All students at Aspire have access to a school email account. Everyone is given their account details when they join the school. It is important that students get in the habit of checking their emails on a regular basis as vital information is shared with them this way. For example, Mr Ewart will send out careers reminders such as when College Open Days are or details about “Job of the Week”.

Any other questions

If you have any questions about Digital Technology and/ or Business and would like to get in touch with the relevant teacher then please contact school:

Ms Matthews: s.matthews@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Mr Brown: j.brown@aspire.fcat.org.uk

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