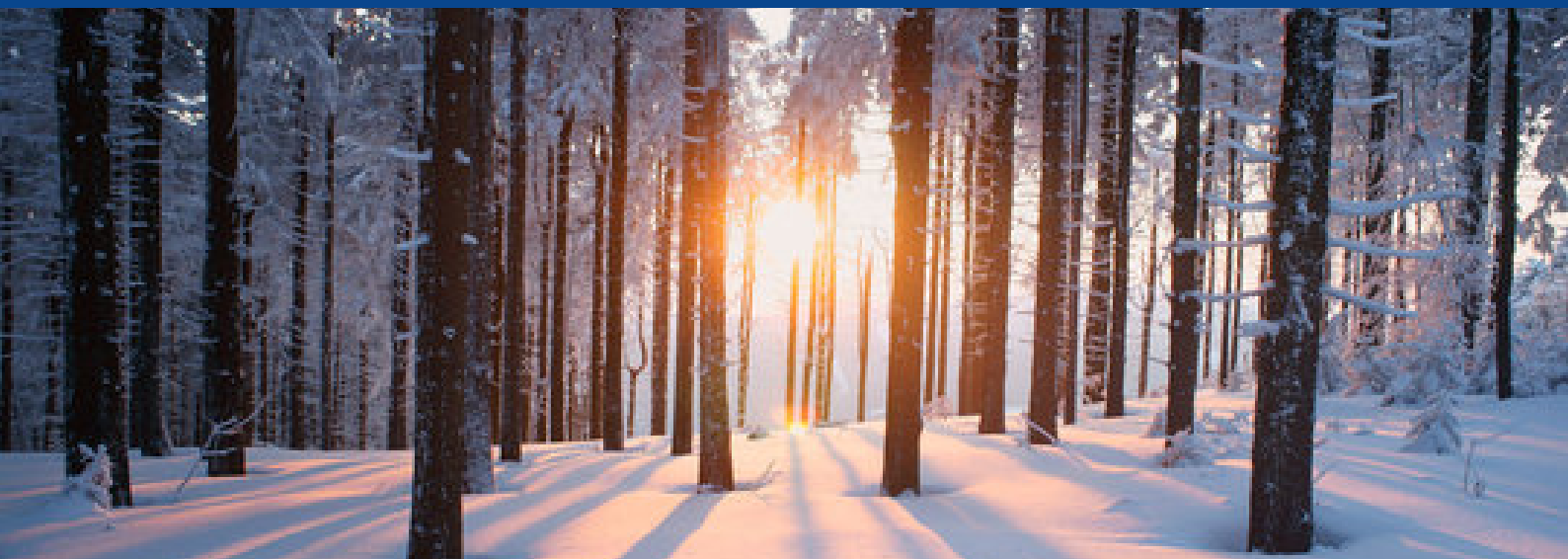


Inspire Academy

Winter 2026 Edition



Headteacher Comment

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance

Good attendance is essential for students to achieve their best. The Government expects all students to be in school at least 95% of the time.

To put this into perspective, 95% attendance means a student is absent for no more than 1 day every 4 weeks.

If your child's attendance falls below 95%, we ask you to think about how this might be viewed in the workplace. An employer would be concerned if an adult missed this much time, and we are trying to help our students build strong habits that will support them beyond Year 11.

We work closely with the Local Authority Attendance Advisory Service, who guide us on the actions we must take. This can include formal warning letters and, if attendance does not improve, it may lead to legal action. We want to avoid this wherever possible, so please contact us if you need support with attendance—we are here to help.

Mobile Phones in School

You may have heard that the Secretary of State has written to all schools reminding them that students should not have access to their mobile phones during the school day.

At Inspire, this expectation is already in place: phones must be handed in on arrival.

The only change is that Ofsted will now be checking that schools are enforcing these rules consistently.

If your child has left their phone at home, please let us know before school. This prevents confusion during routine searches and helps the morning run smoothly.

All the best,
Mr O'Donnell

Attendance - A message to our Learners

We need you to be here that's why we exist!

- We can't help you progress if you aren't here
- We can't support you with things if you aren't here
- We can't reward you if you aren't here

If you are here we can

- Support you and advise you with any issues you may have
- Reward you for your successes
- Take you on school trips and bring in visitors
- Help you make progress and build towards your future
- Give you time to spend with your friends and staff
- Enjoy great lessons in number of subjects
- Help you look for a career path and visit colleges

'Pupils with no absence are over twice as likely to achieve their potential grades!'



'There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower achievement.'

90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to their potential grades and get the qualifications they need.

Why Attendance Matters?



Being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing 2 whole weeks of school over a full academic year.



Being late means you miss out on your learning - then you feel behind, then you get stressed....

However - if you are running late, DO still come in. There will be less catching up to do then.

Why Punctuality Matters?





Inspire
Academy



Be
Here!

EVERY DAY. ALL DAY. ALL THE WAY!

ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Remember, you have a whole support network around you—whether you need advice, a listening ear, or just someone to talk to. Please reach out to us—we are here for you. No matter how big or small your worries may feel, you don't have to face them alone.

Mrs Edwards

Safeguarding Update



Inspire Academy Safeguarding Spotlight – Keeping Our Children Safe **Welcome to Inspire Academy’s safeguarding update!**

In this issue we’re focusing on three key areas: Online Safety, Contextual Safeguarding, and Vaping Awareness.

● ONLINE SAFETY: Helping Children Stay Safe in the Digital World

Online safety is a statutory safeguarding expectation for all schools and families in England. National guidance highlights the importance of a whole-school approach and strong parent-school partnership to help keep children safe online.

The UK Government is also launching a new Kids Online Safety website on 16 February 2026, giving parents practical tools such as conversation starters, guidance on algorithms, advice on spotting misinformation, and clear steps for setting parental controls across apps and devices.

Suggested Actions for Parents:

- Talk regularly to your child about their online life—normalising daily conversations helps address risks early.
- Use prompts such as “Who posted this?” and “Why might it have been shared?” to build digital literacy and critical thinking.
- Explore UK-based online safety resources (e.g. Internet Matters), which offer free age-specific guides for under-5s, primary and secondary-aged pupils.

● CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING: Understanding Influences Beyond the Home

Contextual safeguarding is a UK-developed model that helps schools and support services recognise risks that occur outside the family home, including in peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods, and online spaces. Research from the University of Durham highlights how these wider contexts influence safety and wellbeing for young people in England today.

Guidance used across English local authorities emphasises that risks in the community—such as exploitation, peer pressure, or unsafe social dynamics—require practitioners to understand the environment around the child, not just their home life.

What This Means for Families:

- Young people often do not disclose harm happening outside the home, making open communication essential.
- Ask about friendship groups, online interactions, and where your child spends time after school.
- Contact school staff (DSLs) early if you're worried—multi-agency safeguarding approaches rely on families, schools, health, and social care working together in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance. [[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)].

● VAPING AWARENESS: Protecting Young People’s Health

Youth vaping is an emerging concern across the country. Public health officials warn that nicotine affects adolescent brain development, impacting attention, learning, mood, and impulse control—key issues for developing teenagers.

Recent data shows high levels of youth vaping, with flavoured disposable vapes driving much of the appeal among young people, and many devices designed to look like everyday objects such as highlighters or USB sticks, making them easy to hide from adults.

Important Points for Parents:

- Explain the risks clearly—nicotine addiction can develop quickly, and vaping may worsen anxiety and concentration issues.
- Stay alert to changes in mood or sleeping patterns, which can be linked to nicotine withdrawal and dependency.
- The majority of young people who vape want to quit but need adult support and guidance to do so.

If you suspect your child is vaping, please speak with us—we work closely with local health and early help services, who can support families.

● Working Together to Keep Children Safe in England

National statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children) places strong emphasis on collaboration—families, schools, health services, and communities each play an essential role in supporting children’s safety and wellbeing across England. [[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)].

If you have any concerns about any of these areas—our safeguarding team is here to help.

Term 3 Rewards

This Term's Rewards

This term's rewards have seen our students join in with Cooking, IFC and Lego, along with offsite rewards such as Jumpin Fun, Laser Tag and Staff Vs Students Football.

We are proud to provide our students with opportunities to develop their communication, teamwork and social skills with a broad range of reward choices each week.

We hope to continue to provide enrichment experiences for all of our students throughout the academic year.



Dickens Behaviour Rewards

This term we have seen our Year 7 class begin to build friendships and learn to work as a team. This behaviour has seen them enjoy different rewards as the term has gone on.

We hope that this behaviour continues, and we see development and growth in their friendships across the year.



Positive Behaviour

As a school we are promoting positive behaviour consistently across the school. This term we have seen more positive phonecalls home as well as positive postcards home.

We want to remind our students that 'Catch Me' points are for an act of kindness at social times and Golden Tickets are for excellent work during lessons. These are then entered into a draw where our students are able to win vouchers or a bag of sweets.

We would love to see more acts of kindness and excellent work happening in lessons and around the school!



Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Inspire is an active member of the Rivermead Inclusive Trust Diversity, Equality and Inclusion group, taking part in termly meetings to explore ways we can continue to support this important area of learning. This term, we are celebrating Chinese New Year with a special themed meal, giving pupils the chance to try a variety of traditional Chinese dishes—and even have a go at using chopsticks if they wish!



A big shoutout to Aaron, Adam and Poppy for helping to organise the hall ready for our students to enjoy their Chinese food!



Term 3 Trips

Orchards Trip

On 4th February, Orchards class visited the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend. A Sikhs Temple welcome to all, to learn more about different cultures. This trip built on knowledge and understanding of others and their religions. It gave the Orchards an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about those that practice Sikhism.



Wingham Wildlife Park

Wildlife Trip

Timbers, Orchards and Meadows took a trip to Wingham Wildlife Park during Term 3. The fastest growing wildlife park in Kent, just outside of Canterbury. With a large number of species of animals across the park, students were able to learn more about animals they may never have seen before.

From Moon Bears to Chimpanzees, our students had a fantastic day exploring and learning all about different species.



Miss Buckberry's Bulletin 📢

Science Updates

KS4 year 11,10 and Meadows have been looking at climate change and how animals have adapted to these changes, Holmes have been looking at hormones and how science has allowed people the opportunity to understand how it can support those with fertility problems and the impact of understanding how our bodies may need science to support with this.

My shoutout goes to Micheal-Daniel for improvement towards his attainment in science. Another shoutout goes to Gabriel for his resilience in Adams and his continued role modelling of maturity to others around the school.

Miss Buckberry

Sustainability Shoutout 📢

Our Aim

Our students are remembering the importance of protecting our planet. We aim to continue to separate our food waste from our general waste on a daily basis.

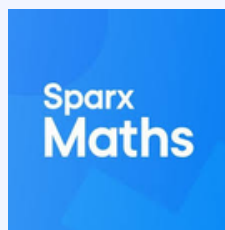
This term we have seen the involvement of Pupil Parliament, discussing what we can do next to support our planet.



Maths Shoutout 📢

This Term's Maths shoutout go to Lucas G from Holmes for being always polite, thoughtful and ready to learn in Maths lessons.

Mrs Elsom



SLT Shoutout 📢

My shoutout goes to Harvey for his commitment and positive attitude since returning to school on a reduced timetable. He has been engaging with his learning and shown real determination to make his return successful. Harvey, your effort has not gone unnoticed.

Mrs Edwards

My shout out goes to Gabe for showing such high levels of resilience and always just getting on with things regardless of what else is going on in around him.

Mr Searle

My shoutout goes to Logan G, Archie D and Caleb J, you all deserve a shout out for the clear improvements you have made, you are now regularly achieving gold reward so well done and keep it up!

Mr Peck

