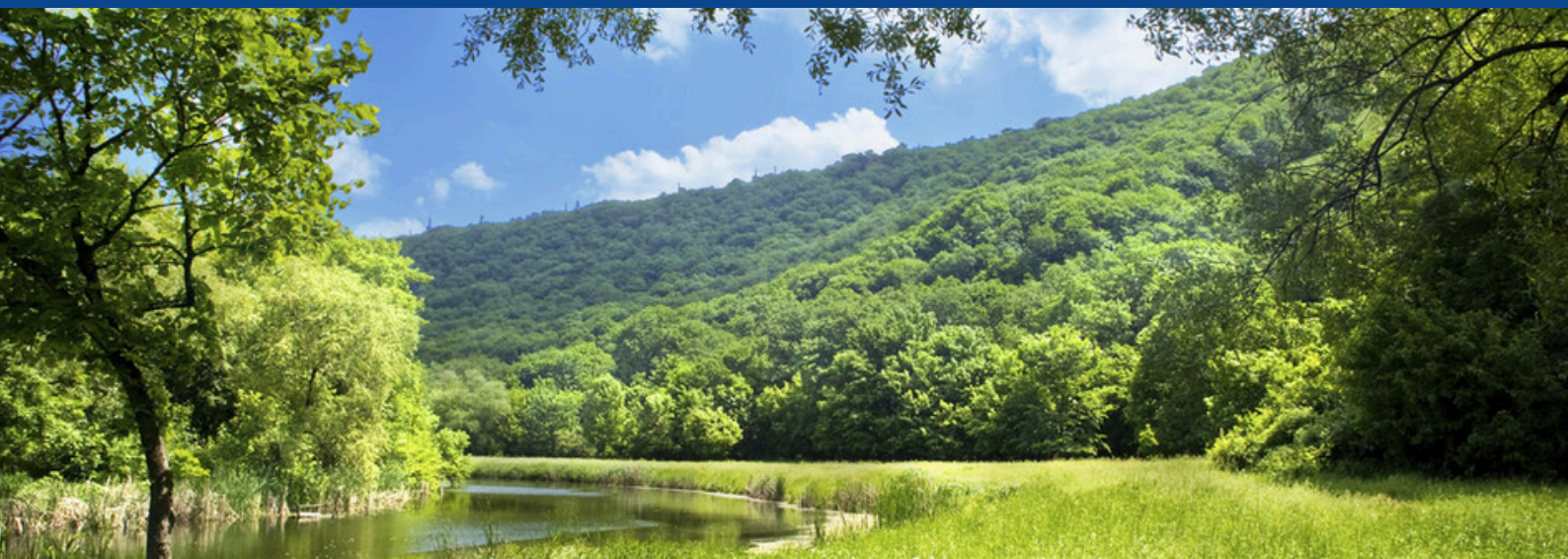


Inspire Academy

Spring/Summer 2026 Edition



Headteacher Comment

It is with a mixture of sadness and immense pride that I am writing to share with you that I will be retiring from my position as Headteacher of Inspire at the end of this month.

After 32 years in education— 5 of which I have been privileged to spend leading this wonderful school. This was over two stints across a 9- year span. I have decided that the time is right for me to retire and embark on a new chapter in my life.

I have many happy memories of my time here. It has been a true honour to watch the students grow, learn, and thrive, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our staff, the dedication of our governors, the support of our parents, and, of course, the wonderful, inspiring pupils who make this school special every day.

I will sincerely miss the daily interactions, seeing the children develop their curiosity, and the vibrant and unique atmosphere of Inspire Academy.

I am confident that I am leaving the school in a strong position. I am working closely with the Chair of Governors and the senior leadership team to ensure a smooth transition.

As you are aware Mr Peck has been appointed as the new Headteacher so will add to that smooth transition. I am committed to making my final days as rewarding as the rest of my time here, and I will be fully focused on supporting the staff and students until my very last day.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your support, kind words, and partnership during my tenure. You have made my time here a thoroughly rewarding and fulfilling experience.

I wish Inspire and its entire community all the best for a successful and happy future.

Warmest wishes,

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

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

National Hoarding Week


Hoarding Disorder is a recognised mental health condition where individuals find it extremely difficult to part with possessions, often leading to unsafe living environments and significant emotional distress. It is more common than many people realise and can have a serious impact on health, wellbeing, and safety.

Hoarding is not about mess or choice – it is complex and often linked to trauma, anxiety, or loss.

What to do if you are concerned (Medway pathways)

If you are worried about a pupil, family, or vulnerable adult, please do not ignore concerns – hoarding can present a safeguarding risk.

Immediate risk

- If there is immediate danger (fire risk, blocked exits, risk of harm)
-  Call 999

If concerns relate to a parent/carer or vulnerable adult:

Consider referral to:

- Medway Adult Social Care (self-neglect / hoarding risk)
- Housing / Environmental Health (unsafe living conditions)

Safety concerns (home environment)

Refer or signpost to:

- Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Safe & Well Visits
 - Support with fire safety in cluttered homes
 - Risk reduction (alarms, escape routes)

Early help / lower-level concerns

Safeguarding Update – Mrs Gray Has Her Say...

At Inspire Academy, safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do. This section aims to share key information, highlight important themes, and support families in keeping our young people safe both in and out of school.

Online Safety: Small Changes, Big Impact

Online safety continues to be one of the biggest safeguarding challenges for young people today.

Many pupils are spending increased time online—gaming, messaging, and accessing social media. While this brings great opportunities, it also comes with risks, including:

- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Online bullying
- Contact with unknown individuals
- Pressure to share images or personal information

What parents and carers can do:

- Have open conversations about online activity
- Keep devices in shared family spaces where possible
- Use parental controls and privacy settings
- Remind children: if something feels wrong online, it probably is

A Final Thought

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. By working together—school, families, and the wider community—we can ensure every child feels:

- Safe
- Supported
- Ready to learn

If you ever have any concerns, no matter how small, please contact our safeguarding team. It is always better to share and check.

Need support?

Please contact: Mrs Gray, Mrs Edwards or a DDSL



Term 5 Rewards and Trips

Orchards and Bloom classes both enjoyed a trip to Mcdonalds for lunch this term for their excellent attendance. Well done everyone!



This Term's Rewards have seen our students enjoy new and exciting opportunities. Ninja Warrior, Boxercise and Inspire Sports Club (ISC) have been introduced and enjoyed by many students across the term. Sledge and Slide is proving as popular as ever, with our students sliding their way into their weekend with an hour long trip at our local Snowsports Centre.

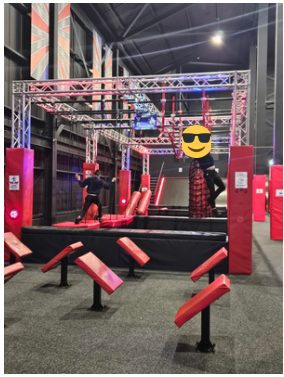
Exam Updates

Our Summer exams continue as we move into Term 6. Please see the dates below for these. We wish our students the best of luck as they continue to work hard during the exam season.

Exam	Date
Number & Measure	5th May 2026
Maths Paper 1 Non Calculator	14th May 2026
English Paper 1	21st May 2026
Maths Paper 2 Calculator	3rd June 2026
English Paper 2	5th June 2026
Maths Paper 3 Calculator	10th June 2026

A Term full of Sport and Activities! ⚽🏀

We introduced Ninja Warrior to our students this term. A great experience for our students to enjoy and work towards. This rewards helps to create healthy competition between our students and tests their stamina and strength.



Our students this term have entered into the spirit of things and enjoyed playing football matches each week. This has encouraged teamwork and healthy competition against other schools.



Mental Health Awareness Week 😊

Mental Health Awareness Week

On Thursday 19th March, Inspire Academy recognised Mental Health Awareness Week by wearing green. Staff and students alike were encouraged to wear something green and donate a pound to support the cause.



As a school, we raised £175.78 to support the Mental Health Foundation.



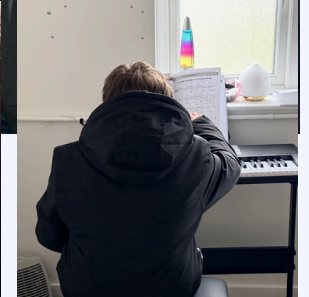
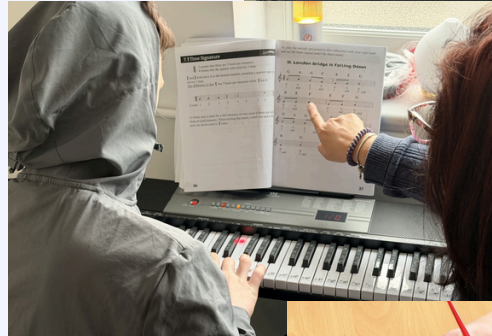
Ms Thomas, with the help of Mrs White organised a raffle for all at Inspire that wore green on Thursday ready to win a hamper full of goodies for all to enjoy.



For any support or guidance regarding Mental Health, please contact our Welfare Team on InspireSafeguarding@inspireacademy.org.uk or seek advice on the Mental Health Foundation Website.

Art and Music

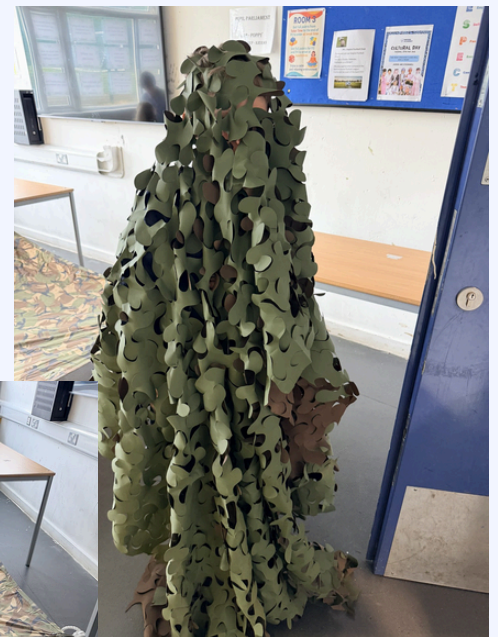
After listening to pupil voice, we have introduced a number of new activities for our students to engage in. Across the school, Art lessons are taking place as well as Mrs Elsom sharing her piano skills with students in music interventions.



Art lessons this term have seen our students make Hama Beads creations, rock painting, Mr Doodle creations and scratch art masterpieces. Students across the school have been encouraged to tap into their creativity with acrylic bookmarks and opportunities for painting skills to be developed.

Commando Joes

Commando Joes is a programme that is based upon a RESPECT curriculum and focuses on the character traits and life skills that a young person will need to draw upon as they go through life. This term we have introduced Commando Joes to the curriculum for our students to enjoy and build on their teamwork and communication skills.

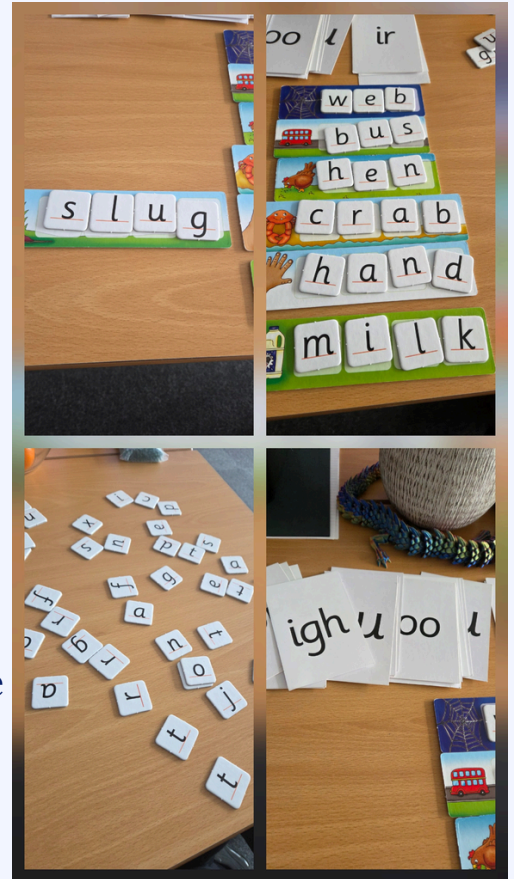


R	Resilience
E	Empathy
S	Self-Awareness
P	Passion
E	Excellence
C	Communication
T	Teamwork

Interventions with Ms Thomas

Ms Thomas has been busy working hard with our students to make excellent progress in both Read, Write Inc Interventions with our students onsite as well as Lego Interventions with some of our MLP students.

This approach supports children's development by promoting social communication through joint attention, interaction, and working towards shared goals. It helps build key social skills such as turn-taking, negotiation, and sharing ideas, while also providing emotional and behavioural support by reducing social anxiety and boosting confidence. In addition, the hands-on, structured activities enhance fine motor skills and spatial awareness, offering a predictable, low-pressure environment that makes social interaction more comfortable and accessible.



Maths Shoutout 📢

Maths shout out to the following students who have gained Functional Skills qualifications in Maths:

Sonny (level 1)

Chloe (level 1)

Loraina (level 2)

Sparx
Maths

Well done to Loraina and Louie for maintaining the top level in Sparx Maths times tables. We hope you enjoyed your Dominoes Pizza!

SLT Shoutout 📢

My Shout out to Alfie LA for demonstrating the greatest improvement in attendance since the end of Term 4. This progress has been made in the context of recognised challenges in attending school and reflects significant effort.

Mrs Edwards



My shout out goes to Taylor who has made noticeable improvements in his overall attitude to school and learning. Well done Taylor!



Mr Searle

My shout out goes to Sonny who is working really hard again and regularly making his reward and showing he can be that positive role model to others, well done Sonny!

Mr Peck

A graphic with the word "Goodbye!" in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the words "& THANK YOU" are written in a white, sans-serif font on a brown, brush-stroke-like background.

As you are aware, our current Headteacher, Mr O'Donnell, is retiring and will be leaving Inspire on Friday 22nd May 2026. He has been part of Inspire, and its previous trust, as an Executive Headteacher since 2017 and has supported a large number of learners, staff and families during his time with us.

Throughout his years of service, Mr O'Donnell has given so much to the school community. His leadership, commitment and steady guidance have helped shape Inspire into the place it is today.

Mr O'Donnell's contribution has extended far beyond the school community. He has been a source of reassurance and strength to many, and his calm and thoughtful approach has been greatly valued by colleagues, families and the wider community. He has led with integrity, kindness and a genuine sense of purpose, and these qualities have earned him enormous respect from everyone who has had the privilege of working alongside him.

While we are, of course, saddened to see Mr O'Donnell leave, we are also incredibly grateful for all that he has done during his time at Inspire. He leaves behind a strong legacy, and the difference he has made to the lives of so many learners and colleagues will continue to be felt for years to come.

Mr O'Donnell will be missed by all at Inspire, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him sincerely for his dedication, service and leadership. We wish him a long, happy and well-deserved retirement, filled with good health, happiness and time to enjoy the many opportunities that this next chapter will bring.

Rivermead Inclusive Trust and Inspire Academy

