

28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am proud and excited to be the new Principal of Aspire, working closely with Colin Simkins OBE to continue to ensure that there is "Success, nothing less!" for all our students. The Academy continues to be a vibrant, exciting and inspirational place to be in every day. We are fortunate to have the amazing resources available in our lovely new building but that is not the best of us. Educating young people is a privilege and a responsibility and our expectations for students remain high. The agenda started by Mr Simkins, maintaining a sharp focus on positive relationships and respect, putting them at the centre of everything we do, still carries on seamlessly!

Last year finished on a high with a fantastic transition programme for all Year 6 students that joined us as Year 7 this September. The programme was ambitious including visits to university and three days in school getting know what life is like in a secondary school. We have welcomed those 176 new students in to Year 7 and whisked them off to a team building and resilience training overnight experience, in Anglesey, in their first week with us. This has proven really successful, building on our extended transition programme last term from their primary schools and we now have happy and engaged students making real progress. We wish them all the best as they begin their successful journey at Aspire.

#### **Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 5:00pm to 8:00pm**, is Open Evening and we will be closing school at **1:20pm** to allow the staff to prepare for what should be a bumper evening. This will be our first in the new building and we are excited to show off our fabulous facilities and students work.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 3:30pm to 5:30pm**, is the Year 7 Progress Evening. We invite all parents and carers to come along and find out more about us and how well your child is settling in to life as an Aspire student.

This term is speeding along very quickly and I cannot believe that we are already into week 5 and the Year 11 students are gearing up for the start of their first set of Pre-Public Examinations, which begin on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**. We have already held a session for Year 11 parents/carers on how to support with revision and this was really successful.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm to 5:30pm** is the first of our critically important Year 11 Parents' Evenings. This is your chance to support your child and the staff to ensure that they reach their full potential at the end of Year 11. No concern is too small to discuss and we are happy to help where ever we can.

Parent's Evenings are an important part of our communication with parents and carers and we are eager to ensure all parents or carers feel welcome at Aspire and that their voice is heard.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 6:00pm** we will be delighted to invite the students that have just left in year 11 for their well-deserved Awards Ceremony. It is our chance to celebrate their achievements and wish them luck with their future endeavours.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm to 5:30pm** – parents/carers of Year 9 students

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3:30pm to 5:30pm** – parents/ carers of Year 8 students

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm to 5:30pm** - parents/ carers of Year 10 students

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm** is our much anticipated Christmas Concert, a chance for all our talented youngsters to shine like stars!

***\* Please note that some minor changes to calendar dates for 2017-18 have been made to be aligned to our other FCAT schools. Please see attached sheet and the website for full details.***

To continue to reinforce our vision, ethos and culture we all need to **PAUSE** for a moment. **PAUSE** has become **Aspire's** critical acronym and underpins everything we do. It represents:

- **P**unctuality to school is essential. 1 minute late will lead to a 1 hour detention the same night.
- **A**ttendance to school is non-negotiable. To encourage this there are/will be plenty of rewards.
- **U**niform must be correct every day. A bag, black shoes, blazers, ties etc. are essential.
- **S**afe and Sensible Behaviour must be the norm so everyone is safe.
- **H**igh **E**xpectations & Exam Performance are the keys to student success.

We expect **ALL** of our students to accept, and respond positively to these **key** essentials to life at Aspire and for **all** parents and carers to support us with this message.

The new Year 11's have 'earned their stripes' and received their new ties to mark their membership of the oldest year group. They are wearing them with pride, however, if they do not model the highest standards that privilege will be taken away from them! After a rigorous interview process we have chosen the Academy Captains and Vice captains and are delighted to announce the following students:

- Academy Captains – **Jodie Ebdon** and **Connor Couttie**
- Vice Captains – **Sinead Boyle**, **Megan Eadie** and **Chiana Dickson**

All these students have shown the highest levels of excellence, respect, integrity, pride and resilience throughout their time at Aspire and we are looking forward to working with them to ensure our motto of 'Success, nothing less!'

During this term there will be an opportunity for other students to be elected as new members of our very important **Student Parliament**. We encourage students across the Academy to have their voice heard using this forum. Only by voicing their opinions in a positive and productive way can we truly help put their ideas on improvement into practice.

Please do not forget that the school closes on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 3:00pm** and re-opens at **8.35am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

I look forward to meeting you at the various events planned this term and thank you for your continued support of Aspire Academy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown  
Principal

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