



Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have had a good week and are looking forward to a weekend filled with family activities. I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk) between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions.

This week we have welcomed Lauren Riby as my PA. Please do contact her with any queries or concerns that you may wish to raise with me. Lauren can be contacted at [lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk). Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

### **Sporting News-**

U11 Boys Football Tournament at Maidstone Gallagher

On Monday 9th October, boys from across all 4 Aspire schools traveled to The Gallagher Stadium in Maidstone to take part in the annual U11 tournament. We formed two teams; Ulcombe and Leeds and Broomfield, and Kingswood and Platts Heath. The theme of the tournament this year was the Champions League, with more than 30 schools representing different clubs.

A huge well done to both teams, who were led by coaches from EMC Academy. A great day had by all, with glorious weather! Thank you also to Mr Moore for attending as my supporting adult.

Miss Liddicoat is pleased to inform you she has managed to secure **FREE** tickets for all Aspire families to attend the women's game between Charlton Athletic and Crystal Palace on Sunday 22nd October at The Valley Stadium. If you would like to take advantage of these free tickets, please scan the QR code on the attached flyer and reserve your free tickets for you and your family.

We would love to see pictures of anyone who attends, so please take lots and send them to your school office for Miss Liddicoat's attention!

Furthermore children from across all 4 Aspire schools were selected as sports captains. This is an important part of our GOLD award achieved by all schools for the 22/23 year.

Sports leaders will work alongside staff and help to lead and run activities within their school. They will also be in charge of their own school action plan and look at raising and improving the standards of all sport related areas.

In order to do this, they had to attend a morning of training, led by the Maidstone, Kent School Games partnership. As they progress in their leadership throughout the year, they will undergo visits from the partnership to ensure they are fulfilling their roles. A very exciting, yet responsible position to hold.

Thank you to all the leaders who attended the training for this,



Claire Liddicoat - PE and Active Learning leader

### **Mental Health Awareness-**

This week on Tuesday 10th October we marked the annual World Mental Health Day. A day to raise awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. Mental Health is a universal human right and it is important that everyone knows that it is okay to ask for help, no matter what.

Please do refer to the Newsletter that was shared with you all on Tuesday for lots of helpful links for further support that is available for all families. Please contact Lauren ([lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk)) if you would like another copy of this Newsletter.

Please also remember that we have a dedicated wellbeing email if you would like any advice, guidance of support- [wellbeing@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@aspire-kent.org.uk),

### **Kent Teacher of the year awards-**

Nominations are now open for Kent Teacher of the year award. This is an opportunity to nominate a teacher who has gone above and beyond to support their students, or a support worker or volunteer who has made a significant impact to their school community.

These nominations are open to parents, students and peers so pupils are equally able and encouraged to name a person that they would wish to receive this recognition.

Please use the link below to put forward your named person. <https://sekgroup.org.uk/community-support/awards-and-competitions/awards/>

The closing date for nominations is 28th February 2024. Winners will be announced at a special awards dinner where their contributions will be celebrated.

## **Big Ambition Questionnaire-**

The big Ambition has been launched as a national survey of children and young people across England. The aim is to hear from children on what **they** think is important. This aims to gather the thoughts from children about what they think the Government should do to make children's lives better.

This is open for all to complete from age 6-18. Parents are also able to complete the survey on behalf of younger children (under 6). It takes around 10 minutes to complete and can be completed on any electronic device you may have, including phones.

Please use the link below for more information and how to complete the questionnaire.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>

## **Something for older teenage siblings or family members-**

The NHS have launched two FREE Cadet programme for 14-18 year olds in Ashford and Dover. For more information please visit-

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/14-to-25/free-nhs-cadet-programme-for-14-to-18-year-olds-in-ashford-and-dover>

Wishing you all lovely family weekends before we enter the final week of the first term!

Kind regards,  
Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher