

April 2025



Shortenills Abbey

There has been so much to celebrate this term and also a huge amount to look forward to. Firstly, I must acknowledge that it is our first anniversary of Shortenills Abbey being open in April. So much has been achieved in this year and I would like to thank everybody: students, parents, carers and all the staff for all they have done to make this year such a huge success – it really does feel like a big family and that makes for a very lovely place to be every day.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Barnes to the SNA team. This has provided us with the benefits of her wealth of SEND knowledge and experience; I know she is enjoying meeting all the students and their families. We are also excited to have been able to utilise the skills of Paul Barber more recently, who is the new DoFE Coordinator and Outdoor Learning teacher across Aspire. He will be working with us once a week and we already have lots of plans around some lovely projects that the students can engage with. This links in with our aim of providing a wider programme of enrichment opportunity; both utilising our local area and, when possible, branching further afield.

I have been so impressed with how our students have embraced the opportunities available this term and shown fortitude when rising to new challenges. This term, students have benefited from a more bespoke and targeted program of interventions and as we move into next term this, alongside the enrichment program, will continue to be an area of focus. Plus, we must not forget the very important task of ensuring the Year 11 students are as prepared as possible to face their external examinations. The work ethic being shown by Orchid class has been phenomenal and we are incredibly proud of them all.

I would like to extend thanks to the staff, students, parents and carers for all that you do to support the progress we see being made daily.

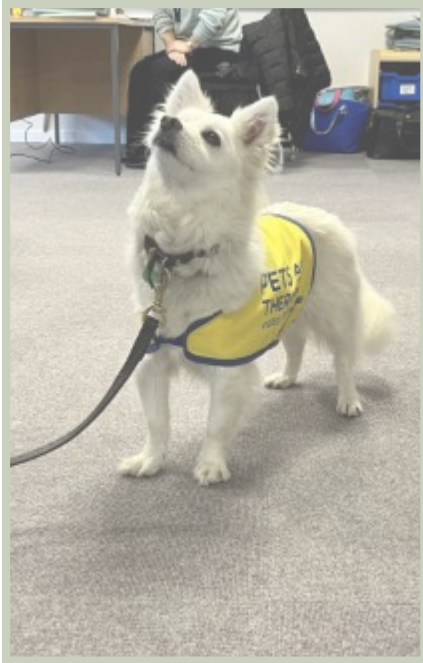
Have a wonderful break!

Best wishes

Jo Hodge
Head of School

Lily Class

Lily Class have enjoyed a fun-filled and exciting term this spring. We have had regular visits from Foxy, the therapy dog, who has joined us for our PE sessions. We have been playing basketball, French Cricket, Kubb and developing our skipping skills. We also had a visit from Adrian, an Air Traffic Controller.



On a bright, sunny February day, we took a trip to Paccar Scout Camp to learn rock climbing and archery. It turns out we have a few budding Katniss Everdeens!

In English, The Hunger Games has been our focus, where we have developed our PEE skills (Point, Explain, Evidence) in analysing the text. Inspired by the story, we cooked a Hunger Games-themed stew.

In cooking, we have also created Creme Egg brownies, a variety of flavoured cupcakes, homemade burgers and pie!

In other news, Lily Class have been studying The Tudors, Rainforests, Fractions, Atoms, Energy and Relationships. Attitudes have been incredibly positive; friendships are strengthening and learning is progressing well. A superb term all round!

Mr Wright
Lily Class Teacher

Mr Dumbuya
Lily Class Teaching Assistant



"MUST TRY"



Iris Class

Wow, what an action-packed term! Firstly, I am extremely proud of the resilience and adaptability demonstrated by Iris class, as we have welcomed Mrs Barnes, Miss Connolly and Mr Barber to our class. Additionally, Iris class have embraced the new enrichment opportunities of yoga, meditation, rounders and physical wellbeing activities, Lego therapy and developing life skills with great positivity. The benefits of these activities to the students confidence and self-control, is already evident.

Work-wise we have concentrated on developing the students' functional skills in both English and Maths, in preparation for a first attempt at external examinations.

Again, I am extremely proud of the hard work and perseverance demonstrated by the class, as we have moved up a gear. In PHSE, we have been studying Equality and Diversity, a subject close to all of our hearts. We have made a wide range of dishes in cooking, widening the culinary skills of the students considerably; we hope you have enjoyed the dishes that have proudly made it home.

The creative artwork, inspired by Miss Jackson, has been amazing! We are greatly looking forward to our upcoming family and friends' day and a well-earned trip to Warner Bro Studios!

Mrs Barnes
Iris Class Teacher

Mrs Busby
Iris Class Teacher

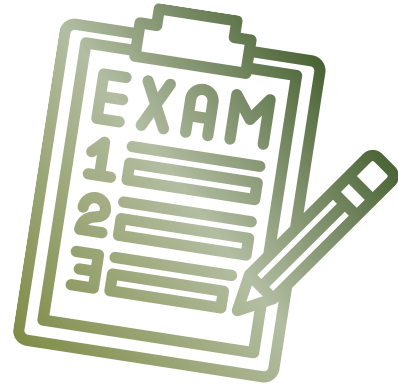
Miss Connolly
Iris Class Teaching Assistant

cooking
WITH
Love



Orchid Class

The past few weeks have been buzzing with activity in Orchid class. Our amazing Year 11 students have been hard at work, putting the finishing touches to their BTEC folders in science, PSHE and cooking. They have shown incredible dedication and creativity, and we're so proud of their efforts!



To wrap up their PSHE folders, our creative students are organising a small Sports Day event for the entire school. I am delighted with the fantastic ideas they have come up with! Each student is taking charge of different elements of the day and will be responsible for running an event at the end of term. It will be a day of classic activities like the 'Egg and Spoon' race, 'Wellie Wanging,' and even 'Tug of War' for the rest of the school to participate in! The competition between Lily Class and Iris Class will no doubt be fierce and we can't wait to see who will emerge victorious.



In addition to their coursework, students are gearing up for their summer examinations. Some students have even started - having recently taken functional Skills in English. It's a busy time, but with enthusiasm and our support, we know they'll do themselves proud. Keep up the fantastic work, Orchid class!

Miss Parfett
Orchid Class Teacher

Mrs Gbadamosi
Orchid Class Teaching Assistant



Hello, This term has absolutely flown by and it's wonderful to finally see some sunshine and daylight. When I joined Aspire in January, I felt both excitement and apprehension, having spent a long time at my previous school. However, I have been incredibly impressed by the daily efforts of my colleagues to ensure that the young people in our settings feel safe and valued.

Our students are nurtured and challenged in a supportive environment, allowing them to flourish. It has also been a pleasure to start to get to know you as parents and carers and to build home-school partnerships, which are crucial for getting the best out of our young people.

I feel honoured to be part of Aspire and look forward to what the next term brings.

Mrs Barnes
SENDCo and Class Teacher

Dates for your diary:

End of Spring term: Friday 4 April 2025

Bank Holidays: Friday 18 April 2025 & Monday 21 April 2025

Start of Summer term: Tuesday 22 April 2025

Bank Holidays: Monday 5 May 2025 & Monday 26 May 2025

Half term: Tuesday 27 May 2025 - Friday 30 May 2025

Inset Day: Monday 2 June 2025

Family and Friends Day: Wednesday 16 July 2025

End of Summer Term: Friday 18 July 2025

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