

The Heron Sixth Form Aspire Programme

A positive next step after Year 11

A one-year Sixth Form pathway to help students strengthen their English and maths, gain recognised qualifications and prepare for A Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships or further study.

The Heron Sixth Form Aspire Programme gives students the time, support and recognised qualifications they need to keep moving forward after Year 11.

Through smaller teaching groups, personalised support, English and maths development, and practical vocational learning, Aspire helps students develop the skills, confidence and qualifications they need for their next academic or career step.

A Levels, BTECs and other advanced courses are sometimes called Level 3 courses. These are courses usually taken after GCSEs and can help students move towards university, apprenticeships, further education or employment.

Aspire is designed for students who are determined to keep moving forward but may need more time and support before starting these advanced courses. Students become part of Heron Sixth Form, learning in a supportive Sixth Form environment while preparing for their future.

With a focus on English, mathematics, digital skills and vocational learning, Aspire provides a positive and purposeful foundation for future success.

Why choose Aspire?

A positive route after Year 11

Aspire gives students a clear way forward after GCSEs. It is designed for students who want to continue learning, improve their qualifications and prepare for the next stage of their education.

A clear route to A Levels, BTECs and advanced courses

Aspire helps students prepare for A Levels, Level 3 BTEC qualifications and other advanced pathways. Successful completion of the programme can help students move confidently towards their chosen next step.

Focused English and maths support

Students receive focused support to strengthen the English and maths skills they need for further study, apprenticeships and future employment.

Smaller groups and personalised support

Students benefit from smaller teaching groups, tailored support and regular progress reviews.

Industry-relevant qualifications

Aspire includes recognised vocational qualifications in areas linked to future study and employment. Students gain practical knowledge and skills that can support progression to further courses, apprenticeships or the workplace.

Practical, career-focused learning

Students study vocational subjects that help them build workplace skills, confidence and an understanding of different career routes.

A supportive Sixth Form environment

Aspire students are part of the Heron Sixth Form community. They learn in a Sixth Form environment and are supported as young adults preparing for their future.

Is Aspire right for me?

Aspire could be the right choice if you are determined to keep learning after Year 11 but need more time and support before starting A Levels, BTECs or other advanced courses.

It is designed for students who may achieve Grade 2 or Grade 3 in English and/or mathematics and want a positive route forward.

Aspire could be right for you if you:

- Want to continue your education after Year 11.
- Are motivated to work hard and improve.
- Need more support in English and/or mathematics.
- Want to prepare for A Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships or further study.
- Enjoy practical, career-focused learning.
- Would benefit from smaller classes and regular support.
- Are determined to achieve your goals.

What will I study?

Students follow a full-time one-year programme.

Digital Information Technology — Level 2

Students develop practical digital, technical and problem-solving skills for the modern workplace.

Health and Social Care — Level 2

Students gain knowledge and understanding of health, care and support services, one of the UK's largest and fastest-growing employment sectors. This subject also helps students develop communication, responsibility and understanding of people's needs — skills that are useful in many careers.

Functional Skills English — up to Level 2

Students strengthen their reading, writing, speaking and communication skills. These skills are important for further study, apprenticeships and employment.

Functional Skills Mathematics — up to Level 2

Students build confidence in using maths in real-life situations, further study and the workplace.

Entry requirements

The Aspire Programme is designed for students who achieve Grade 2 or Grade 3 in English and/or mathematics and are committed to continuing their education.

Students do not need to have everything worked out before applying. Our Sixth Form team will talk to students and families about their options and help them choose the pathway that best matches their ambitions.

What can Aspire lead to?

Successful completion of Aspire can help students move on to:

- A Levels at Heron Sixth Form, depending on subject entry requirements.

- Level 3 vocational qualifications, including BTEC courses.
- Apprenticeships.
- Further education or technical pathways.
- Improved career opportunities through stronger qualifications and greater confidence.

Aspire is more than a one-year course. It is a positive step towards your future.