



Spring 2025

Newsletter

Welcome to the Aspire Hub
Newsletter!

Welcome to our new style newsletter.

We hope you find this newsletter useful.

We've tried to distil recent education news and resources for you, drawn from authoritative sources. We've also tried to signpost you towards Challenge Partners resources and Aspire Hub events.

We are in the process of completing our Aspire Hub Directory and we hope to be able to share that with you soon. We also have dates for OLEVI Power of Coaching and Advanced Power of Coaching training. This is free to your staff as Hub members.

In our next Hub meeting on 26th March we hope to have news of guest speakers for our May and September Hub days,

Emma and Simon



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Challenge Partners Resource Directory

The Challenge Partners Resource Directory contains a wealth of good practice

The directory is searchable, and can be found [here](#)

Each item identifies strategies adopted by a school together with contact details for the school. All Aspire Hub schools will have a log-in to the Challenge Partner website.

Here are a few areas of excellence published over the last year on the theme of inclusion:

[Thriving in the mainstream classroom through an alternative learning journey](#) (Prescot Primary)

[Re-engagement of disaffected pupils](#) (Secondary)

[SEND and Inclusion](#) (Primary)

[Enhanced provision for SEND](#) (Primary)

[Inclusive culture for the most vulnerable](#) (Secondary)

[Improving attendance for pupils with complex SEND](#) (Secondary)

The directory is updated regularly so be sure to keep an eye on it for new areas of excellence that may be of interest to you. If you have an area of excellence you wish to share with the wider hub, do let us know!

News and Updates

This is a digest of recent news from TES, Schoolsweek, ACL, CST, Education.gov.uk, Ambition Institute, Best Practice Network, among other sources.

What's on the horizon?

The volume of measures being proposed by the new government is considerable and worthy of your attention. You can read the new policies [here](#).

The government aims to let councils reopens schools and enforce reformed teacher pay scales under the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#).

Pearson and Rowntree Reports

There are significant and recently published reports on UK Poverty (Rowntree) and English Education (Pearson) which are proving to be influential in current debates.

Pearson report: [here](#).

Rowntree report: [here](#).

Adaptive Teaching

Alex Quigley has written exclusively on the theme of 'adaptive teaching'.

In January, he published a detailed survey of current thinking and resources on his blog—[The 'Adaptive Teaching' Collection](#).

Pupil Motivation and Engagement

The Ambition Institute has published their research into pupil motivation and engagement. Find it [here](#).

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

If you are interested in developing strategic policy on this issue, this recently released report will be of interest—['The Shape of the Future'](#).

More specifically, the EEF just released its first report into the potential impact of AI source — ChatGPT—in lesson preparation — [here](#).

The Disadvantage Gap

The Education Policy institute has published detailed research on the disadvantaged gap across British education — [here](#).

Attendance

In case you missed it, the mainstream secondary schools can now also download an attendance summary report on the 'monitor your school attendance' service. The report is specific to each school and summarises:

- Overall attendance and persistent absence compared with national averages.
- Attendance for different pupil groups compared with the national average and previous academic year.
- Pupils in 5% absence bands, by year group.

To download your report:

1. Log into '[View your education data](#)' (YVED) using your DfE sign-in credentials.
2. Select 'Monitor your school attendance'.
3. Select 'Your attendance summary'.

Flexible working in schools

Flexible Working Ambassador Multi-Academy Trusts and Schools (FWAMS) have been appointed by the DfE to support school leaders to implement and embed flexible working in their schools. It has begun to release its findings and guidance — [here](#).

Recruitment and Retention — [here](#).

9000 Females Teachers left profession in 22/23 — [here](#).

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Teaching and Learning

Ambition Institute has published a documentary series of 4 videos under the title [Great Teaching Unpacked](#) with the following themes — Harnessing Attention, Teaching Behaviour, Securing Success, Embedding Development.

They come with the following health warning from Peps McCrea —

1. Multiple configurations of effective schooling exist — this is only ONE flavour of examples.
2. The goal is not to imitate what you see, but rather to catalyse a conversation about what 'even better' might look like in YOUR unique context.
3. Beware CONTEXTUAL BLOCKADE (where we focus on the reasons something won't work for our context, rather than what we can learn from it).
4. By itself, the documentary will not transform teaching in a lasting way — for this, you also need an effective PD system (such as Steplab).
5. Huge gratitude to the schools and families who so generously shared their learning lives — please talk about this and share this footage with due respect!

Safeguarding

The DfE issued a policy update in late November./ You can find it [here](#).

A register of children not in school is being developed. The register, also part of the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#), is expected to come into force in 2025.

SEN

The DfE has launched an inquiry into SEND — [here](#).

This recent Guardian article outlined some of the consequences of the crisis — £100m spent last year on LA fighting SEND decisions — [here](#).

Behaviour

The Tony Blair institute has published research into strategies to improve behaviour in schools — [here](#).

New Ofsted Framework

Ofsted's proposal for their new framework can be read [here](#). This is currently open for consultation.

EAL

The Bell Foundation has produced an excellent report on how to support EAL Learners.

The key points are summarised — [here](#).

You can read the full report — [here](#).

RISE teams announced

The DfE has announced the first Regional Improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) advisors—[here](#).



New Years Honours List

You will recognise some of the names on the New Year's Honours list — [here](#).

This includes our very own Karen Bramwell (Senior Hub Partner) who was awarded an OBE for her services to Education.

Please join us in sending our most heartfelt congratulations to Karen, for this recognition of her time, effort, and dedication to improving the lives of young people across the Northwest.

Karen attended an awards ceremony in London this past December, and received the award from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.

Hub Dates for your Calendar

Spring 2: Wednesday 26th March

Virtual — 1pm to 3pm.

Summer 1: Tuesday 20th May

Face to Face — Venue TBC — All Day

Autumn 1: Wednesday 24th September

Face to Face — Venue TBC — All Day





Latest updates from across the Hub

