



Spring One 2026

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Aspire Hub Newsletter!

Message from Senior Partners

Welcome to this edition of the Aspire Hub Newsletter. We're excited to share an update on our collective work and the progress we're making across the hub.

This year, our shared focus is clear: **to create outward facing professional learning that mobilises staff at every level.** Our action plan was codesigned, ensuring that every activity reflects the priorities identified by school leaders and representatives across the hub.

We're already seeing strong engagement across our three main strands. Leadership at all levels is a real strength, with Middle Leaders QAR clusters forming well, the Leadership Residency Programme launching with high interest, and leading practice events helping schools learn from one another. Our Teaching Assistant development offer is underway, with positive engagement in the Ambition Institute TA programme and growing interest in using the apprenticeship levy to strengthen TA pathways. Through our Engagement strand, we're supporting schools to take part in ImpactEd's engagement and attendance projects, ensuring everyone can benefit from high quality insight and shared learning.

This is an exciting term as we are on track with planned events and building real momentum. Thank you to every school for your continued collaboration and commitment to improving outcomes across our hub.

Upcoming Diary Dates

Spring 2- Remote Meeting- Tuesday 10th March 1:30pm

Summer 1- Remote Meeting- Monday 18th May 1:30pm

Summer 2- Full day face to face conference- Monday 22nd June

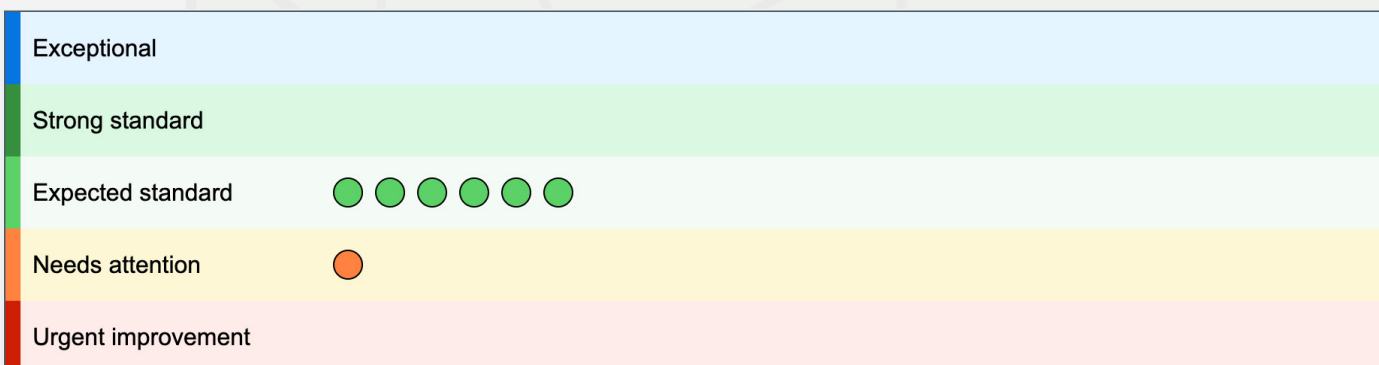


Michelle Ridsdale
Senior Partner

Updates from across the sector

Ofsted publishes first new report card

Leaders have shared their views on the new inspection regime after Ofsted published its first full report cards for schools. Reports for 21 schools – 12 primary schools and 9 secondaries – inspected under the revised framework that took effect in November 2025 were published on 14th January 2026.



Source: [Schools Week](#) and [Ofsted](#)

Teachers to receive training to tackle misogyny

The government has [unveiled measures in England to tackle misogyny](#) and support high-risk pupils as part of its plan to tackle violence against females.

Source: [Government News](#) and [BBC](#)

Maximising the impact of Pupil Premium

Unity Research School are running free 3-part webinar on maximising the impact of the Pupil Premium.

Source: [Unity Research School](#)

Leader Apprenticeships with NPQs

As scholarships for NPQs are now restricted to schools with above average pupil premium numbers, many schools are now using the Level 3 and 5 Leader Apprenticeship with NPQ route offered by Best Practice Network.

Source: [Best Practice Network](#)



Internal Exclusion Data

Analysis of data kept in Arbor has laid bare the scale of internal exclusions – data not collected by the government - showing 18.4 per cent of 856,654 pupils were internally excluded at least once in the 762 secondary schools that recorded internal exclusion in 2024-25.

Source: [Schools Week Internal Exclusion Data](#)

Activities over the last term

An overview of the key events and activities that have taken place across the term

Primary Hub Directory

Just before Christmas we sent out a **Secondary Hub Directory** to all our secondary and all-through schools. Last week we sent out a similar **Primary Hub Directory** to all our primary schools. The directory has gone out to all schools who submitted an information form in the Autumn Term

If your school is not listed and you would like to be part of the directory, please contact Lucy Jackson - jacksonl@fa1.uk.

Aspire HUB CPD- French and Spanish



All our schools had the opportunity to attend French and Spanish CPD delivered by [Wendy Adeniji](#).

All the resources can be downloaded [here](#).

Aspire HUB CPD- Design Technology

A group of our primary schools attended online CPD delivered by the [Design Technology Association](#).

A Secondary session is planned for Feb 4th at 2pm. Invites have been sent out to secondary schools.

All the Primary resources are [here](#). Secondary resources will be shared after the session on Feb 4th at 2pm.

We have also booked Adam Boxer for a day of Science CPD at our June conference.



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Middle Leaders Quality Assurance Review

Two of our senior leaders have now been trained in delivering the MLQAR to Aspire Schools. We also now have access to all the resources required for future MLQARs: [Challenge Partners Middle Leader Quality Assurance Review Resources](#).

We are starting with a History MLQAR with 5 secondary schools. This will run in the Spring and Summer, after which we will report back to you on the impact of the process.

Ambition Institute TA course

Many thanks to **Louise Thompson**, Headteacher of Parochial CP who is facilitating this course for our schools, having received the Ambition Institute training.

Louise reports that "25 TAs from across the Northwest are actively engaging in Ambition's Leading TA CPD. So far, we have looked closely at the Science of learning and how this knowledge impacts our practise. We have particularly focused on the working memory and attention in order to deliver learning in a way that maximises learning for all children including those with SEND".

Future events

We are proposing to offer a one-hour remote briefing on the latest Ofsted framework. This will be delivered by a senior leader who shadowed an inspection in the early Spring and can share their observations and learning from the process.

No date has yet been arranged for this but if you would like to make an expression of interest please click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.

Ofsted briefing



Leadership Residency Programme

A significant number of schools expressed interest in participating in a Leadership Residency. A small number of leadership residencies have been arranged. For this we reply on the participation of member schools.

This is essentially a leadership shadowing event, initially for senior leaders. It will provide an opportunity for focussed leadership development through purposeful immersion in another school, over 2 days. In essence – shadowing senior leadership in another school.

The Aspire Hub managers will facilitate the matching of host schools and participant schools.

The host school can determine how many guests can be accommodated. We suggest 1-3 guests.

The guest(s) will spend 2 days immersed in the practices of the host school, learning about their ways of working and exploring a specific area of interest for school improvement. Guest(s) will shadow meetings, observe lessons review practice and use the time out of their own school to reflect upon their own development and goals. At the end of the two days, guests will (a) provide feedback to the host school on what they observed and learned and (b) present their learning with their own line manager.

Note – leadership residencies can be cross-phase

The Aspire Hub will send out post-residency survey to hosts and guests to measure impact.

The full Challenge Partners documentation for this initiative can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in this, either as a host or a guest, please complete [this expression of interest](#) form for hosts.

We are introducing this initiative after consulting with other Hubs that have already introduced it. Here is some participant feedback -

"The residency was an opportunity for me to spend consecutive days fully immersed within the Senior Leadership Team at an unfamiliar school. One of the key aspects was shadowing all members of the team across a range of areas of responsibility. This enabled me to gain a broader knowledge of how they worked as a team, and where responsibility lay. I fed back verbally to the Head teacher - he really interviewed me in some depth about what I had learned and really pushed on what I thought were areas to improve and focus on. I also compiled a written report around a set of questions and fed this back to the Deputy Head at my host school as she was my link.

"I was a middle leader when I participated in the residency. I am now an Assistant Headteacher. It gave me a unique opportunity as a middle leader to fully immerse myself in another school with a focus that hopefully benefitted both schools. The host school were superb at providing the meetings/observations etc to give me a real insight into their systems etc which I was able to consider for our setting."



Latest updates from across the Hub





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