



Spring Two 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the Aspire Hub Newsletter!

### Message from Senior Partners

As we move through the term, I want to thank you for the commitment and expertise that continue to define the Aspire Hub. The impact across our schools is clear and growing.

This year we have completed **26 QA Reviews**, with another 24 to come, and I'm delighted to congratulate the ten schools newly accredited with Areas of Excellence. Their work, from breaking down barriers for disadvantaged pupils to systematising personal development, is a powerful reflection of the ambition across our Hub.

Our Growing the Top schools continue to push the boundaries of excellence through deep-dive collaboration and peer-led challenge. The insights they generate are invaluable for shaping practice across the wider Hub.

The commitment to SEND development remains a national priority, and I encourage all leaders to create deliberate space for the five schools engaged in the SEND Developmental Peer Review to share their learning. Their reflections will strengthen our collective capacity to meet the needs of every child.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the remarkable contribution of our reviewers. Their outward-facing generosity is one of the defining strengths of our Hub. Thank you for your continued dedication. The work you lead every day is shaping futures, raising aspirations and strengthening the system for all.

### Upcoming Diary Dates

**Ofsted Briefing-**  
Wednesday, 29th April,  
4:00 pm

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

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



**Michelle Ridsdale**  
Senior Partner

# Aspire Hub Programmes & Impact

*A snapshot of what has been happening and what is still to come*

## Quality Assurance Reviews

Our Hub has completed **26 QA Reviews** so far this year, resulting in **8 new Areas of Excellence**. With another 24 reviews scheduled for this term, the momentum is strong. A huge thank you to the 97 reviewers from the Aspire Hub who stepped out into other schools. This is a great developmental opportunity, helping to sharpen leadership skills while providing expert peer-to-peer challenge to the schools visited.

## Growing the Top (GtT)

We also have **5 schools** currently participating in GtT. While these schools do not receive accredited AoEs in the traditional sense, they are gaining deep-dive collaborative insights and peer-led challenges that are vital for schools already performing at the highest levels.

## SEND Developmental Peer Review

As SEND continues to be a national priority, we are looking to intentionally create space for our **5 schools** participating in the SEND Developmental Peer Review to share their insights. What we will learn from these schools will be invaluable for the rest of the Hub.

## National Network of Excellence

There are several exciting opportunities to engage with events across the Challenge Partners network, including free Digital Discovery Days and webinars on a range of key themes including self-efficacy, artificial intelligence, attendance.

[Find events across the CP Network](#)

# Areas of Excellence

We are proud to celebrate several of our Aspire Hub schools being recognised with Areas of Excellence in their Challenge Partners reviews.

[Read the full reports here](#)



## East Ward Community Primary School

Success in breaking down barriers to learning for disadvantaged pupils



## Gorsefield Primary School

Learning Without Limits: Little Learners, Big Futures



## Higher Lane Primary School

A music curriculum that engages and inspires all as a fully integrated part of the school's wider offer



## Ridgeway High school

Continuous Professional Development for all career phases



## Sandringham Primary School

Precision Phonics Teaching: Sustaining High Outcomes and Closing Gaps for All Pupils



## Sunny Bank Primary Academy

Curriculum in Action



## St James' CE Primary School

Exceptional inclusion securing strong outcomes in a highly complex context



## St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

Inspiring life-long readers through our living, breathing, reading curriculum



## The Grange School

Progress and wellbeing of pupils with an education, health and care plan across all key stages of school



## Willow Primary School

From Self to World: Systematising Personal Development through the SOW Model

# Save the Dates

## Ofsted Training & Summer Conference

### Ofsted Briefing- Wednesday, 29th April, 4:00- 5:30 pm.

Due to a high number of interest, we will be holding an Ofsted Briefing session. The session will be delivered by a former MAT CEO, Andy Pollard, who now works for School Improvement Liverpool. He was recently invited to shadow and observe an inspection under the new framework.

[Sign up here!](#)

### Aspire Hub Summer Conference - Science with Adam Boxer

We are delighted to have booked **Adam Boxer** for a whole day of CPD. The day has been designed for primary and secondary science leads along with the senior leaders who line-manage science. This event is free to all Aspire Hub schools.

In the morning Adam will focus on **explanations and modelling in Science**. There will be a networking opportunity for all our science leaders at lunchtime.

In the afternoon Adam will focus on **using questioning and mini whiteboards for checking for understanding**.

*Every attendee will receive a mini-whiteboard, eraser and pen, as these will be used throughout the day as Adam models his classroom techniques with us all.*

Ideally, each school would send a member of SLT and a Science leader. We expect demand to be high, so we have placed a limit of up to 3 places for each school.

[Sign up here!](#)



Adam Boxer is lead practitioner at Totteridge Academy, an author and one of the leading voices in science education. He delivers high quality science CPD nationally and internationally for both primary and secondary colleagues. Adam was a founding member of '**CogSciSci**' - a grassroots group of teachers who promote the use of cognitive science in school science teaching. He is also a director of **Carousel Learning**.

[View Adam's previous work](#)



## Latest updates from across the Hub



