

**ASPIRE**

We endeavour to achieve and aspire to be successful

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Dear Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to Astley for what will be an exciting year at school. Many changes have taken place over the Summer to ensure that students experience will continue to improve. We also have great reasons to celebrate as the Class of 2016 have been the most successful ever with 52% of students achieving GCSE grades A*-C in English and Maths. Alongside these improvements there were very strong performances in Art, Media and Physical Education, where results are well above the national average. The new progress measures, which have been introduced for the first time in 2016, show that Astley students have made better progress across a range of subjects than they have done in previous years.

Over the Summer there has been extensive refurbishment to the main school reception area and a new Inclusion base has been built, this is called the ASPIRE centre. We are delighted to welcome twelve new members of staff to the team taking up full time positions in the departments of Maths, Science, Humanities, English and the Senior Leadership Team. We have also had the opportunity to extend the Inclusion team in school by appointing five Learning Leaders. The Learning Leaders have taken on the role of tracking and monitoring our students' progress and overseeing pastoral support.

Before the summer break the school consulted with staff, students, parents and governors regarding the school's core values to ensure that they meet the needs of all involved. Through the consultation it was agreed that the core values would be changed to clearly represent the key functions of our school and to represent the values of all stakeholders. The school's core values are now represented by ASPIRE, Achievement, Success, Professionalism, Respect, Integrity and Endeavour. These six core values are essential elements not only for a successful school but to become an effective member of the wider community and will be the bedrock of all work that takes place at Astley from this point. These values will be the driving force in improving the school and developing excellent attitudes to learning in all of our students.

In the coming weeks you will receive information on your child's targets for the coming year and ways to best support your child at home. With the change to the GCSE exams that come into effect this year there is a much greater emphasis on student's exam performance and support with revision and homework from you as parents has never been so important. You will also receive information on the school's approach to revision to help support your child further.

We look forward to working with you throughout the coming year to support your child in being successful at Astley, I thank you in advance for your commitment to the school and your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Bowler
Executive Headteacher

Fay Beach
Headteacher

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour