

Aspire for Young People



Aspire for
Young People
Charity

History

Aspire For Young People was founded in 2020 and aims to create opportunities for young people to experience enriching activities outside of education that they otherwise would not have access to.

AfYP has worked with the support of Artswork and The Rothschild Foundation and in conjunction with the Cultural Educational Partnership to provide access to cultural and creative opportunities for the students of Aspire. Achievements to date have included:

- Platinum Artsmark status, the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England.
- Annual Arts Week at Aspire where students work with artists to participate in a range of creative workshops including silver jewellery, spray painting, animation, beatboxing, circus skills and mural painting.
- Creation of a dark room at our Blueprint site.
- Sourcing high quality CPD for staff to take into their lessons, for example iPad art training, Art for Wellbeing with an Art Therapist, animation, collage and photography.
- Setting up a youth club at the request of parents for isolated children with mental health issues. They children have renamed this as 'My Space' and this continues to provide a safe space to develop social skills and connections.
- Running trips to galleries, museums, theatres and local art studios.
- Running two successful online conferences 'The Power of Arts' in April 2021 and 'Culturally Responsive Communities' in July 2022.
- Acquiring a decommissioned ambulance to be converted into a fully-functioning mobile Art classroom. To be launched in 2024, 'Art on a Bus' will be used to bring Art Education to young people across Bucks, with a priority for those deemed as 'emotionally based school refusers'.

There are currently 4 Trustees:

- Debra Rutley – CEO, Aspire Schools
- Hannah Eley – Deputy Head of School, CSEC
- Kevin Ford - Executive Headteacher, Great Marlow
- Claire Garnett – Headteacher, Juniper Hill School

Currently all work carried out on behalf of AfYP by Aspire Schools staff is support in kind agreed by Aspire Schools Board of Trustees. No one is paid by AfYP.

Objectives

- To increase access to recreational and leisure activities to improve life
- To increase access to art and cultural activities and to education
- To provide support and activities which develop skills to enable students to participate in society.

Grant History

- £125,400 from The Rothschild Foundation to be delivered over 2 years (2020 – 2022)
- £95,355 from Artswork to be delivered over 3 years (2020 – 2023)
- £16,000 from The Rothschild Foundation to be used over 12 months (2024 – 2025) towards the Inspire Creativity Programme
- A number of small grants from parents and organisations, for example, a £10k donation towards music projects and a £450 donation towards a textile project for Art on a Bus.

What's Next?

Having conducted a student voice survey AfYP will be focusing on delivering a variety of workshops and visits for students within Aspire and those who do not attend our schools because of ill health or EBSA. We will also focus on activities that offer enrichment and connection for EBSA students in partnership with schools and the Cultural Education Partnership. We have already launched the pilot for our Inspire Creativity Programme and hope to repeat this project in the second half of the summer term 2024, with year 10 students across Aspire to include makeup and drama workshops.