

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you enter the program?

There is a 4-step selection process designed to identify students who are a good fit for the program.

Step 1: Complete an application form. Forms are available online on the Callaghan College Waratah Campus website, or from your Year 6 Teacher.

Step 2: Students are required to write a piece about why they wish to participate in the ASPIRE program as part of their application form.

Step 3: Applicants will be invited to attend an interview with our ASPIRE staff, as well as a Bright Spark workshop. At the interview, applicants will be asked to present and discuss a piece of work that demonstrates their strengths, skills and interests.

Step 4: ASPIRE staff will consult with Year 6 teachers and Primary Principals to further assess applicants' suitability for the program.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of Term 2.

Please ensure you accept your offer of enrolment by the date specified on the offer letter or your place will be made available to another student on our reserve list.

What qualities do students need to thrive in the ASPIRE program?

- Strong academic performance
- Higher order thinking skills
- Well developed literacy and numeracy skills
- High level of self motivation
- Ability to work well in a team
- Positive attitude to school and learning
- High levels of creativity

Does learning continue at home?

Our ASPIRE Program is enriched by a culture of high expectations and learning excellence. The workload is greater than mainstream classes and students are expected to continue learning at home by establishing good home study practices.

We encourage students to talk to their teachers early if they are feeling overwhelmed by their workload so we can make adjustments to suit their individual needs.

**"I love being part of ASPIRE!
The work is always interesting and
challenges me to think differently."
- Student**

How long does the program last?

ASPIRE is a two year program. Student suitability for the program is reviewed at the end of Year 7, but in most cases students continue in their ASPIRE class until the end of Year 8.

From Year 9, students from the ASPIRE program are given first priority for our stage 5 (Year 9 and 10) enrichment and extension programs, including our Personal Pursuit Program elective and STEM program.

Where can I find more information?

Visit our web page waratah-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/ or contact our school on the contact details below.

Contact

Callaghan College Waratah Campus
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ASPIRE
High Performance Program
For exceptional learners to thrive

waratah-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



About ASPIRE

The ASPIRE Program at Callaghan College Waratah Campus is designed to enable high potential and gifted students to thrive and fulfil their potential in a stimulating and supportive learning community.

The program is made up of two classes, each catering for up to 28 students who have similar abilities and desire to extend themselves beyond the expected level for their age.

Our ASPIRE teaching and learning programs follow the NSW Curriculum for Year 7 and 8 and provide high challenge learning activities tailored to students' needs, interests and abilities. The focus is challenging and supporting students to:

- take risks and be active agents in their learning
- embrace challenge with grit, focus and curiosity
- extend and apply their analytical and creative skills
- build new ideas and become effective problem solvers
- responsibly use current and emerging technologies to extend their learning
- understand their influence in creating a vibrant learning community.

Students in the program are supported by our Deputy Principals, our ASPIRE Coordinator and a team of teachers who have specialised training in High Potential and Gifted Education.



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I highly recommend the ASPIRE program and the challenging learning opportunities it presents. As a parent, I've watched my children thrive in a classroom of motivated, like-minded peers to become confident, engaged learners.”

– Parent

Confident and Creative Learners

The ASPIRE Program is based on an Inquiry Based Learning philosophy. This is a highly engaging, student centered teaching practice that fosters transformative learning and provides opportunities for students to apply their skills through real world, personally meaningful experiences.

Our targeted learning programs focus on the wholistic development of our students. We want students to excel and thrive academically, but also enhance the social and emotional skills they will need to become successful life long learners and positive contributors to their community as adults.

Beyond the classroom, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of learning enrichment activities tailored to students' interests, including:

- excursions and workshops with industry and academic partners
- student leadership groups and forums
- external competitions and tournaments.

Students are also encouraged to share their learning with our school community through presentations at Open Days and ASPIRE learning showcases.

Domains of Potential

Our aim is to optimise student growth, wellbeing and achievement across all four domains of potential.



Intellectual



Social/emotional



Physical



Creative

The ASPIRE Program responds to the latest High Potential and Gifted Education Student Policy from the NSW DoE.

