

2027

ASPIRE PROGRAM

A HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS TO THRIVE

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 environment.

The program is made up of two classes, each catering for up to 28 students who have a desire to extend themselves and a passion for learning.

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 program is designed to encourage our 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 and critical thinkers
- understand their influence in creating a vibrant learning community

Students in the program are supported by our ASPIRE Coordinator and a team of teachers and project mentors who ensure the individual learning and support needs of every student are catered for.



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 Department of Education. Please see our [website](#) for more information.

Student Qualities

Thriving in the ASPIRE program -

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

"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 & 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 these skills through real world, personally meaningful experiences.

Our targeted learning programs focus on the holistic development of our students. We want our 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.

All ASPIRE students are required to complete a small group research project in an area of personal interest.

The aim of the 'Deep Dive Project' is to encourage students to become critical thinkers, take ownership of their learning, develop their research and presentation skills and learn to set high expectations.

Students share their learning from their project with family and friends at our annual ASPIRE Deep Dive showcase, a not to be missed event in your child's journey.



Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

There is a 3-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](#). Students are required to write a piece about why they wish to participate in the ASPIRE program as part of their application form.

Step 2: Applicants will be invited to attend an interview with our ASPIRE staff and complete a pre-interview questionnaire. At the interview, applicants will be asked to present and discuss a piece of work that demonstrates their strengths, skills and interests and passion.

Step 3: 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 and successful applicants will be invited to a BrightSparks Workshop at Waratah Campus in Term 3.

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

DOES LEARNING CONTINUE AT HOME?

Our ASPIRE Program is enriched by a culture of high expectations and learning excellence. The learning is compacted and deep and students are expected to continue learning at home by establishing good routines.

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.

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 [website](#) or contact our school on 02 4968 1939 or via email at waratah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

ASPIRE Application Deadline

Note that applications for ASPIRE must be lodged by Thursday, 2nd April, 2026.

The application process is outlined above, as well as on our [website](#).

We can't wait to meet our ASPIRE students for 2027!