

Aspris



Aspris College
North Wales

A place to grow and achieve

Our prospectus





Hello and welcome

I'm thrilled that you're taking a look at what we do here at Aspris College North Wales. Choosing the right college is a huge decision and I know you want to know who is going to be guiding your experience—so let me tell you a little bit about myself and what really drives me.

I've been working in specialist education since 2003 and for me, this isn't just a job; it's a vocation. Throughout my career my focus has always been the same: advocacy. I believe wholeheartedly in making sure every young person feels seen, heard, and championed.

Becoming Principal in January 2025 was the ultimate opportunity to lead a college where specialist knowledge is at the very core of everything we do. I'm here because I've spent my career focusing on how education can work for people who have often been left behind by mainstream settings.

I am a firm believer in equity over equality. We shouldn't aim to give every student the same thing; we must provide exactly what each young person needs to succeed. That might mean a unique resource or a tailored therapeutic approach—and that commitment to individualised support is what makes this college special.

This is why our mission is simple: We treat each student as an individual and work with them to develop and provide a bespoke curriculum pathway, to support them to achieve, because together, we raise potential.

Right now is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in Welsh education. With the changes sweeping through with the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code, the landscape for specialist provision is transforming. And I want Aspris College North Wales to be ahead of the curve!

My strategic vision is clear: I want us to be future-proofed. We are currently reviewing and redesigning our curriculum and staffing structure to fully embrace these upcoming changes. We are building a college that is right for our learners.

I am incredibly proud of the hard work we have all put into making this college a truly unique place. We focus on developing resilience and teaching students how to adapt to challenges, all while working towards their goals with optimism—and this is all delivered in a genuinely nurturing way.

Ultimately, I want you to feel an immediate sense of belonging, safety and calm when you are here. The core values we live by were actually decided on by our students and staff. They align completely with the principles I hold dear, and I hope you will see these shared core DRAGON values in practice when you visit the college.

I really look forward to meeting you and seeing all the amazing things you achieve here as we build the future of specialist education together!

Danièle Kennaugh-Langford

Principal

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Our values

Our values guide our actions, shape our college community, and inspire our students to grow into thoughtful, confident and compassionate individuals. We believe that education is more than academic achievement – it's about nurturing character, encouraging curiosity and fostering a sense of belonging.

Within our supportive college environment, our students are empowered to thrive - academically, personally and as they prepare for life beyond college. Together, we create a safe and inclusive setting where every individual is valued, every voice is heard and every success is celebrated.

Read more about our DRAGON values below:

DRAGON

Development

We focus on development: building skills and knowledge

Resilient

We aim for resilience: preparing for the future

Adaptable

We teach adaptability: a 'can-do' skill to cope with change

Goals

We work towards goals: with clear purpose and ambition

Optimism

All driven by optimism: having a positive belief in the successes

Nurture

And grounded in nurture: of a supportive and kind environment



College overview

Aspris College North Wales is an independent, specialist college for young people aged 16 to 25 years with additional learning needs. We support individuals who experience barriers to their learning as a result of social, emotional, cognitive and communication differences.

Empowering young people

At our college, we believe every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive in a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment. Our trauma-informed, person-centred approach ensures that each learner is met with understanding, compassion, and respect—creating the foundation for meaningful growth and lasting confidence.

We don't believe in one-size-fits-all education. Every student follows a personalised learning programme tailored to their individual strengths, needs, and aspirations. Whether they're working toward qualifications, developing social and life skills, or preparing for employment and independent living, we support them every step of the way.

We empower young people to be themselves. We don't ask them to fit into a mould—instead, we help them discover who they are and what they're capable of. Through a nurturing and inclusive environment, students gain the confidence to take ownership of their journey and move forward with purpose.

Whether a student is preparing for further education, employment, or independent living, our goal is the same: to help them succeed on their own terms and feel proud of who they are becoming.



Our mission

We're here to empower young people to live productive, independent and happy lives as active members of their communities. By removing the barriers that stand in their way, we help them build confidence and make their own life choices.

Dedicated and supporting teams

What sets us apart is our deep commitment to understanding each young person as an individual.

Our team is focused on creating a nurturing, supportive, structured and safe environment where learners feel empowered to grow.

We recognise how past experiences can affect learning and engagement. This means our students aren't expected to 'fit in'—instead, we shape our support around them. Their study programme, therapy and transition plans are designed to suit who they are and who they want to become.

We also mix therapeutic support into everyday learning. From wellbeing sessions to speech and language therapy, young people receive the help they need, when they need it.

“The college provides a worthwhile programme of internal work experience that develops learners’ work-related and vocational skills, alongside opportunities for external placements and structured travel training to support independence.”

Estyn



What we offer

- A staff team who are highly skilled and trained in supporting young people with additional learning needs and complex needs
- A fully equipped personal care room with trained staff to ensure an inclusive environment where all needs are met
- Staff are competent in communicating using Makaton and PECs
- A broad and balanced curriculum
- Small class sizes
- 1:1 specialist support available, if required
- A combination of evidence-based therapies
- Transport is available on a needs basis
- In-house courses such as, access to further education, employability skills and independent living skills
- A term-time only day college
- A comprehensive series of baseline and diagnostic assessments



Curriculum summary

We combine academic choice with expert therapeutic support in a setting designed for neurodivergent learners.

Ambitious and varied

Our approach is based upon individual opportunities, and we aim to meet individual needs through our tailored programmes of education and care.

Additional support for literacy, numeracy and independent living skills can be provided where required. Work-based learning, work experience and employability skills are embedded into the study programmes to help with transition and preparation for further study or employment.

Our approach is trauma-informed, person-centred and built to help learners move towards being independent. We help our students to gain qualifications, work on their social skills and prepare for employment.

We aim to provide every young person with an individually tailored programme of study, life skills and therapies to enable them to live as independently as possible and make their own life choices.



Functional skill building

At college, we place a strong focus on developing functional literacy and numeracy, recognising these skills as the essential foundation for success in adult life. They enable learners to manage finances, interpret information, make informed decisions, and communicate confidently in real-world situations.

Building on this foundation, we integrate disciplinary literacy and numeracy to embed the precise language, terminology, and practical concepts that are critical within each learner's chosen sector. This approach ensures that students not only gain fluency in everyday skills but also develop the specialist knowledge required to thrive during work experience and within their future careers.

Supported throughout your journey with us

Life skills are deeply embedded within the broad and balanced curriculum at Aspris College North Wales, ensuring that students are not only academically prepared but also equipped for real-world challenges. From communication and decision-making to budgeting, travel training, and personal care, these essential skills are taught in meaningful, practical ways that connect directly to everyday life.

By integrating life skills into every aspect of college life, we empower students to take ownership of their future, make informed choices and thrive beyond education.

Some of the skills we help to develop through our education services include:

- Employability skills
- Access to further education
- Internet safety awareness
- Budgeting and personal finance
- Social skills and teamwork
- Communication and organisational skills
- Travel training programme
- Work experience within the local community

Teaching approach

Our vision is to prepare our learners for the future and support them to overcome barriers so that they can confidently live the life they choose.

Working with students to achieve their aspirations

Our core purpose is to support young people in making a successful and confident transition into adulthood. We provide a nurturing, structured environment where learners can build the resilience, independence and practical skills they need to lead meaningful lives and actively participate in their communities.

We recognise that every student's journey is unique. That's why we focus on increasing achievement and independence through personalised learning programmes that reflect each individual's strengths, interests and goals.

Our aim is to open doors - to further education, employment, and independent living - so that every young person has the opportunity to shape a future that's right for them.

Whether it's gaining qualifications, developing social skills, or exploring career options, we support learners to make informed choices and pursue the life they aspire to.

All students are encouraged to share their opinions at student council meetings. They're also encouraged to be active members of the college community and share their thoughts during their house group's Power Hour.



Providing the right therapy in the right setting

- All students are offered personalised social skills profiles and are encouraged to achieve the goals they set in therapy
- A combination of evidence-based therapies will be offered to help students, if it is assessed as necessary, as part of their ongoing development
- Both our Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist work directly with students to assess their needs and plan and implement intervention on either a group or individual basis
- Our Wellbeing and Engagement Lead offers both group sessions and 1:1 sessions based on the individual students needs
- Students have access to individual sessions, but development focus is on group sessions where a higher level of communicative competence and a more reflective stance of real-life situations is supported



Places and spaces

At Aspris College North Wales our students thrive in an environment where they receive plenty of individual attention. This nurturing setting allows staff to provide tailored, high-quality support that empowers students to make swift and meaningful progress.

Spaces designed by our team

Our college provides a range of learning environments designed to support education and positive behaviour. Classrooms are structured for focused teaching and collaborative activities, while breakout rooms offer quieter spaces for small group work or one-to-one support, reducing anxiety and promoting engagement. Sensory rooms provide a calming environment for students who need regulation, helping them manage emotions and return to learning ready and focused. Together, these spaces create a flexible, inclusive setting that meets diverse needs and encourages both academic progress and emotional well-being.

Rooms available include:

- A fully equipped sensory room and sensory gym
- An outdoor gym
- Wellbeing room
- Small computer rooms / break out rooms for independent study
- A life skills room
- An art room
- A kitchen designed as an inclusive and accessible space, to meet the needs of all learners
- Purpose-built café open to the public





Specialist facilities

What sets our college apart is the range of specialist spaces that enrich learning and social development.

Our on-site gym and outdoor gym promotes physical health and wellbeing, giving students opportunities to build confidence and resilience through exercise. These spaces encourage an active lifestyle, which is proven to enhance focus and mental health—key factors in successful learning.

The café provides a real-world setting for developing communication, money-handling and work-related skills, while our social spaces encourage friendships, and positive interactions in a safe environment. This hands-on approach helps prepare students for future employment and everyday life, reinforcing the importance of responsibility and teamwork.

Social spaces throughout the college are designed to encourage positive interactions, collaboration, and friendship-building in a safe and welcoming environment. These areas play a crucial role in developing interpersonal skills and creating a sense of belonging within the college community.

In addition, our dedicated wellbeing room offers a private and supportive space where students can talk openly and access help when needed. This room is used to hold confidential discussions, helping students manage challenges, build resilience and stay engaged with their learning.

These facilities complement classroom learning by promoting independence, life skills and a sense of community. All of which are key elements for preparing students for adulthood.



Your journey with us

We know that when a young person joins our college, their whole family is part of the journey. That's why we keep communication open, expectations clear and support consistent so you always feel informed and involved.

College hours

Our college day is structured to support focus, balance and wellbeing and good attendance is essential to provide the best education for our young people:

Students attend 4 days a week, from 9am – 3pm. The days will be shared with our young people and family/carer once a place has been allocated. These hours help young people manage their energy, build routine and still have time to rest or reflect at the end of the day.

What should I wear?

We don't have a compulsory uniform. Instead, students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing that suits their needs.

We've learned that this flexible approach helps reduce anxiety and allows students to express themselves while feeling safe and ready to learn.

What's for lunch?

Students can either bring in their own lunch or buy from a local shop. Our café is open four days a week where students can purchase food. Students also have access to kettles, microwaves, and hobs if they need them.

Additional information

- Secure storage: Students are given access to a secure locker where they can store their personal items.
- Leisurely lunch: We have a variety of lunchtime activities or we encourage students to start their own club if they have an interest in something specific.



Positive quotes and stories

Discover a range of stories and quotes from students, the community and from our families at Aspris College North Wales, and how our dedicated and experienced team supported students to settle in, enjoy their learning and succeed.

"Helped me feel like a grown up."

"Coming to Aspris College North Wales has helped me feel like a grown up. I'm doing really well because the teachers know the ways I can learn best and I've always got support when I need it."

Student of Aspris College North Wales



"Not many provisions like Aspris."

"There are not many provisions like Aspris... I would encourage parents to find out more about Aspris College North Wales, especially for the young people being referred through the disability team."

Social Worker, North Wales



"Totally integrated with all aspects of college."

"There is total inclusion in all aspects of my son being with his peers and totally integrated with all aspects of college life and the interaction with all staff; not only his 1-to-1's but with all members of staff and students from other groups."

Parent of a student



"I can be me."

"The staff do an excellent job, I feel happy and safe here and I can be me. I didn't feel like that in mainstream college. I found it difficult to make friends."

Student of Aspris College North Wales

"The cafe is amazing."

"The cafe is amazing! The students and staff members do an excellent job, the cake tastes great."

Member of the local community

Extra activities

At Aspris College North Wales, we know that learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. That's why we offer a wide range of enrichment activities designed to help young people build confidence, explore new interests and discover what makes them feel good, mentally, physically and emotionally.

Activities beyond the classroom



Here are just some of the extra activities our young people can get involved in:

- **Independent travel training:** accessing and navigating the local community safely, whether on foot, bus, train or car
- **Work experience:** our amazing onsite café and various local providers work with us as well
- **Preparation for adulthood:** hands-on activities to develop independent living skills and accessing local services
- **Confidence:** developing resilience and understanding of dangers through personal, social and health education, including relationship education and the Juicy Project
- **Sustainability:** working in our local community to develop eco-awareness and understanding of environmental issues



“Learners develop important skills for their future lives within the college café, including money handling, social interaction and food preparation, while engaging confidently with the public.”

Estyn

Shining in our community

Connecting with our community is key to helping young people grow in confidence and purpose. That's why we actively build strong links with local businesses, charities and organisations.

Our engagement lead organises local community groups and curriculum enrichment activities which the students experience off-site.

Here's how we connect:

- Aspris connect: once a month event for families to meet up, get support and advice from local services
- Aspris social: once a month event for parents/carers to meet up and receive wellbeing support and engage in activities
- Work experience placements with supportive local businesses
- Community gardeners project at Wrexham Maelor Hospital
- Engagement with Wrexham wellbeing hub
- These community links don't just build practical skills—they help young people feel involved in the world around them

Enrolment process

At our college, we work closely with families and local authorities to make sure our setting is the right fit for each young person.

Admissions criteria

Admissions are made through either your local authority or Careers Wales, depending on who manages your child's plan. We typically offer new placements in September, January and April, but can discuss alternative start dates if you need one.

We welcome young people who:

- Are aged between 16 and 25
- Have a current Individual Development Plan (IDP), Learning and Skills Plan (LSP) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have a diagnosis of autism, a learning difficulty or disability, or differences in social, emotional, cognitive or communication development

Admissions process

Once a request for a place is received and the above criteria is met, here's what happens next:

Step 1 Initial discussion

The process usually starts during a young person's review. Families, carers, and professionals explore whether we might be a suitable next step.

Step 2 Referral and agreement

If a placement is considered appropriate, the local authority or Careers Wales begins the formal referral and funding agreement process.

Step 3 College visit

We encourage potential students and families to visit us. This visit gives you a chance to see our environment, meet the team and decide whether it feels like the right setting.

Step 4 Needs assessment

Following a positive visit, we carry out a needs assessment. This helps us understand how we can support the young person and whether we can meet their needs in line with their IDP, LSP or EHCP.

Step 5 Placement decision

If we believe we can meet the young person's needs, we inform the Local Authority and formally offer a place.

Step 6 Transition planning

Once the placement is agreed, we invite the young person for a transition meeting. We begin developing a personalised learning programme and arrange additional visits if you need them. We want to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

Let's connect

If you want to find out more about anything you've read in our prospectus or, if you'd like to talk about how Aspris College North Wales can support you and your child, please contact us below.



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