

Aspris

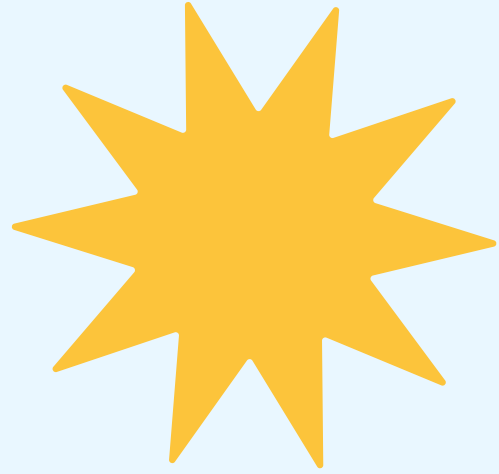


Empowering every student to succeed

Our prospectus







Hello and welcome

It is my privilege to welcome you to Aspris College South Wales, where every individual is valued for who they are. Our mission statement, “Be the best you can be,” underpins everything we do. We are committed to inspiring ambition, fostering resilience, and nurturing the talents of each individual.

Through high-quality teaching and support, therapeutic input and an inclusive environment we aim to empower our students to achieve their full potential and prepare for the challenges of an ever-changing world. This reflects our unwavering commitment to helping every learner reach their full potential—academically, personally, and socially. Our approach is rooted in understanding and support, ensuring that every learner feels safe, empowered, and inspired to thrive. Through tailored resources, and a culture of acceptance, we create an environment where differences are embraced as opportunities for growth.

Our purpose-built modern facility and vibrant campus life create an environment that encourages curiosity, innovation, and holistic development. We are committed to nurturing talent and empowering students to achieve their aspirations while instilling values that will guide them throughout life.

As you explore this prospectus, I invite you to discover the opportunities that await you at Aspris College South Wales. Imagine a college where individuality is not just acknowledged but championed—a place where students’ aspirations are nurtured and their voices matter. Together, we will build a future defined by understanding, resilience and personal growth.

Welcome to Aspris College South Wales — where you truly can be the best you can be.

Kath Lawler

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.

We cultivate a respectful and inclusive community where every student is valued and their voice is heard. We believe in the unique potential of each individual, fostering confidence, intellectual curiosity, and self-assurance. Within this supportive environment, our students are empowered to thrive - academically, personally, and as they prepare for life beyond college.

Together, we create a safe and inclusive environment where every individual is valued, every voice is heard, and every success is celebrated.

Read more about our values below:

Respect

We promote a culture of mutual respect, where every voice matters and differences are embraced.

Independence

We support students in becoming self-reliant, responsible, and ready to navigate life beyond college.

Self-belief

We equip students with the confidence, skills, and opportunities to shape their own futures.

Inclusivity

We foster a welcoming and diverse community where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued.

Confidence

We are committed to continuous learning and improvement, helping students move forward with purpose.



College overview

Welcome to Aspris College South Wales in Cwmbran, Torfaen. We are an independent and specialist co-educational college for young people aged 16 to 25 years with autism and associated conditions.

Empowering young people

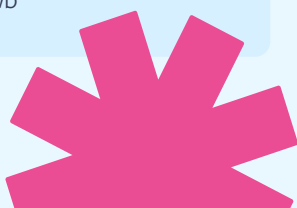
We provide a safe and supportive learning environment where our young people can receive education and develop strategies for managing their condition as part of their lives. We wish to enable our students to develop the confidence and skills they need for the next stage of their journey.

With our dedicated highly trained staff team, we aim to provide every young person with an individually tailored programme of study, with independent life skills and identified therapies included. This is to enable them to live as independently as possible and make their own life choices.

We are a short walk to Torfaen Learning Zone, one of the many Coleg Gwent campuses situated around the region. We have an excellent partnership with Coleg Gwent should our learners wish to attend a mainstream college but require our specialist support and therapeutic input.

Our modern and spacious facilities include:

- Therapy room
- Common room
- Learning kitchen
- Art room
- Student run café called Café-Yr-Hwb



Our mission

Our mission is simple: “Be the best we can be.” We believe in creating a calm environment where every student feels safe and understood. Our aim is always to guide students towards greater independence and improve their self-esteem.

Dedicated and supporting teams

We believe that meaningful learning begins with meaningful relationships. That’s why our team works tirelessly to create a nurturing, structured, and emotionally safe environment—one where every learner feels seen, heard, and empowered to grow at their own pace.

We understand that every student arrives with their own story. Past experiences, both positive and challenging, shape how they engage with education. Rather than expecting them to adapt to a rigid system, we adapt our approach to meet their needs. Each learner’s study programme, therapeutic support, and transition planning are carefully tailored to reflect who they are now—and who they aspire to become.

Therapeutic support isn’t an add-on here; it’s woven into the fabric of everyday learning. Whether it’s through regular wellbeing sessions, speech and language therapy, or emotional regulation strategies, our students receive the right support at the right time. This integrated approach helps them build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging—laying the foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.



Services at our college

- A brand new campus with modern facilities
- Access to FE courses with extra support
- A dedicated and experienced staff team
- A partnership in place with Coleg Gwent
- Excellent academic outcomes
- Bespoke learning packages in social, independent and work-based learning
- Effective therapeutic input that helps students to become more emotionally resilient, improving their behaviour and helping their readiness for learning
- A positive environment and college culture that promotes equality

“They show respect for each other and build positive and trusting relationships with staff. Staff understand the needs and abilities of learners extremely well. As a result, learners are happy in college and engage well in their lessons.”

Estyn

Curriculum summary

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

Ambitious and varied

At Aspris College South Wales, our students follow individual study programmes built around their interests, strengths and goals.

Through our partnership with Coleg Gwent, students have access to more than 150 academic and vocational courses where they can study GCSEs, BTECs and A Levels, to practical, career-focused qualifications.

We also support key skills like literacy, numeracy, and independent living. Each programme is designed to build confidence and support progression. We help every student find their path whether that's further study, employment or greater independence.

Work experience and employability are built into each study plan to support young people beyond college. Alongside learning, we help young people build the skills they need to take control of their futures.



Supported throughout your journey with us

Life skills are deeply embedded within the broad and balanced curriculum at Aspris College South 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 college 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



Working with students to achieve their aspirations

Our curriculum is shaped by the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which guide us in creating opportunities for all young people to access quality education, feel safe, enjoy good health, be treated with respect and develop the skills they need to thrive.

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.



Developing our students life skills

We also embed life skills development into our curriculum so students can learn to live more independently.

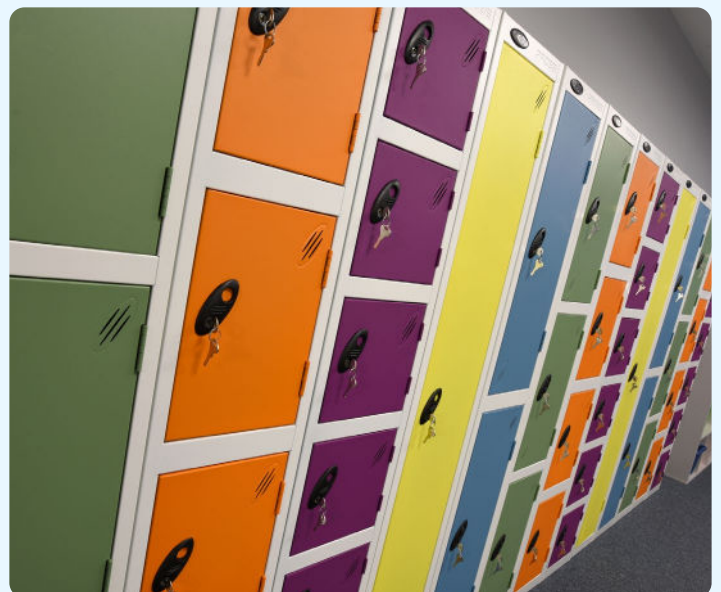
Here's what's included:

- Employability skills
- Budgeting and personal finances
- Communication and organisational skills
- Cooking and domestic skills
- Travel training

Here's what Estyn say about us

"The curriculum offer is strengthened by the college's links with Coleg Gwent where learners access an extensive range of courses to meet their interests and future aspirations. As a result, nearly all learners progress to positive destinations, such as further and higher education."

"Leaders have ensured that the provision is continually adapted to meet the needs of the full range of learners. They have ensured that the curriculum and staffing arrangements, including therapy staff, meet the needs of learners, which have changed over time. Further, they have developed the environment to support the skills development of learners, for example through the in-house coffee shop."



Places and spaces

At Aspris College South 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.

Safe and supportive environments

Aspris College South Wales provides a safe and supportive environment with specialist facilities for therapy and support.

Within this environment students are encouraged to:

- Explore their own experience of autism and Asperger Syndrome, developing strategies for managing their condition as part of their lives
- Work towards and increase their independent living skills
- Appreciate and celebrate the value of the diversity that they bring to the college community and to society
- Develop strategies for clear communication so that staff and other students have a better understanding of their complexities
- Make informed choices regarding their lifestyle

At the end of the study programme at Aspris College South Wales, students will have increased their potential and be better prepared to move on to the next step in their independence pathway, be that in further education, employment, supported accommodation or independent living within the community.





Specialist facilities

Our college is purpose-built to meet the needs of our learners—designed with care, intention, and a deep understanding of what helps young people thrive. Centrally located, our campus offers excellent access to local amenities and public transport, making it easy for students and families to reach us. But it's what's inside that truly makes the difference.

Our learning environment is a blend of structure, creativity, and support. Every space has been thoughtfully developed to help students build confidence, develop independence, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

Here's what students can expect when they walk through our doors:

- Modern classrooms equipped for interactive, personalised learning
- A dedicated therapy room offering a calm, private space for one-to-one support
- A fully equipped learning kitchen that supports life skills and independence
- An art and wellbeing room where creativity and emotional expression go hand in hand
- The Aspris Hub café — our student-run café, open to the public, where learners gain real-world experience in hospitality and customer service

Our college is a safe and inspiring base and a place where students feel valued, supported, and free to be themselves. It's a space rich in care, creativity, and opportunity, where every young person is encouraged to rise to their potential.



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:

9am to 4pm, four days per week.

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.

Estyn feedback

“The college provides clear information to learners and parents prior to their admission including information on the college and photographs of staff and the building. This supports a reduction [in] learners' anxieties about starting college and enables them to settle into college life well.

All learners have individual transition pathways upon entry into the college, which are reviewed regularly and ensure that they are being supported to achieve their long-term goals. There is valuable information captured about learners during their assessment, which includes their personal interests, education objectives and support needed. This enables the college to develop appropriate pathway trackers for every learner.”



Positive quotes and stories

Discover a range of stories and quotes from Estyn and how our dedicated and experienced team supported students to settle in, enjoy their learning and succeed.

“Worthwhile opportunities...”

“Most learners develop their physical skills through a wide range of beneficial opportunities, such as trips to a local park to complete a scavenger hunt, litter picks in the local community, and accessing a local gym. As a result of these worthwhile opportunities, learners improve their physical, co-ordination and teamwork skills particularly well.”

Estyn

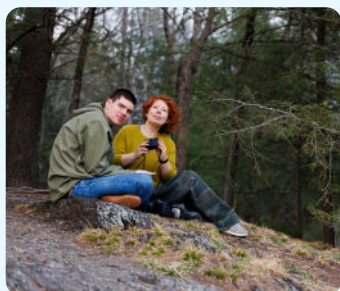
The Aspris Hub - coffee shop

“Learners develop a range of important skills for their future lives within the college coffee shop. This is open every lunchtime to members of the public, selling meals, snacks and hot drinks. Leaders have planned this provision as a vehicle to develop a range of skills, for example social skills, basic food hygiene, cooking and money skills.

Learners complete an application to be considered for the role and then sign a contract with the college on appointment. In preparation for placements, they complete accredited qualifications in food hygiene and barista training, which can be transferred to future employment.

During preparation sessions, learners make products such as cakes, soups and sandwiches to sell that day. Learners develop their numeracy skills effectively through counting daily takings and completing monthly balance sheets. Further, learners develop strong communication and social skills in their interactions with customers and apply these in other sessions. As a result, learners develop a range of skills which support them well to progress to their future destination, such as further education.”

Estyn



“Learners talk confidently about their work...”

“During the inspection, learners demonstrated highly positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. Nearly all learners actively participate in sessions, they organise themselves effectively and complete tasks with appropriate support. Learners demonstrate curiosity and inquisitiveness when faced with new challenges. Nearly all learners show determination and resilience in sessions, for example experimenting with various fabrics and resources when making a parachute in problem-solving sessions.

Learners talk confidently about their work and share this with pride. Nearly all learners treat each other and staff with respect and are considerate of each other. Learners collaborate well and enjoy shared learning experiences. They build friendships and trust and share ideas about what they have learnt.

Nearly all learners make good progress from their individual starting points in relation to their needs and abilities during their time at the college. Nearly all learners achieve units of accreditation in a range of qualifications that relate to their individual needs, interests and abilities. They make strong progress towards targets from their individual learning plans and, as a result, nearly all learners progress to positive destinations such as further education, higher education or employment.

During their time at the college, learners practise and consolidate their literacy skills at a level that is appropriate to their needs and abilities. Nearly all learners develop their communication skills successfully. They listen well, follow instructions accurately, and communicate their understanding with all staff and peers effectively. Most learners develop confidence in speaking and listening and expressing themselves effectively, such as when they discuss the options for the menus in their coffee shop.”

Estyn

Extra activities

At Aspris College South 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:

- Autism-friendly social events and community programmes tailored to young people on the spectrum
- Art sessions at Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre
- Access to the college's own private allotment area
- Inclusive media production and develop broadcasting skills with ABLE Radio
- National events, competitions and enrichment opportunities
- Volunteering projects with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA)
- Specialist driving lessons for autistic learners
- Weekly visits to the local library



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. We create real-world opportunities that help students gain experience, give back, and feel proud of their contribution.

Here's how we connect:

- A student-run café, open to the public, where students can build customer service and hospitality skills
- Regular sessions with community police officers
- Student-led charity fundraising events for local causes
- 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

We welcome enquiries from parents, carers, professionals and local authorities on behalf of young people aged 16 to 25 with a diagnosis of autism or associated conditions.

Places are available to learners whose needs cannot be fully met in mainstream further education. If a young person needs specialist support to access education and achieve meaningful outcomes, a placement at our college might be the next step.



Admissions process

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

Step 1 Make an enquiry

Anyone involved in caring for a young person including parents, carers, schools or local authorities can express an interest in a placement. Get in touch and we'll guide you from there.

Step 2 Book a visit

We encourage prospective students and their families to come and visit. A guided tour gives you the chance to see the college in action and ask any questions.

Step 3 Request an assessment

After your visit, we'll arrange a formal assessment to understand the young person's needs and how we can support. You'll be asked to complete a full application form to progress.

Step 4 Assessment report and placement proposal

Following the assessment, we'll prepare a report outlining a placement plan and how we can meet the young person's needs.

Step 5 Local authority funding decision

The placement proposal will be submitted to your local authority for review and funding approval. We'll stay in touch throughout the process. If everything goes to plan, we'll then look forward to welcoming the young person into our college in a way that suits them.

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 South Wales can support you and your child, please contact us below.



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