

Monday 31 October



I hope that all our students, parents, carers, family and friends enjoyed the first school publication of the year, with our half-termly Aspire magazine sent out with all students on Thursday before half-term. Please [click here](#) to see a copy. All previous editions of the magazine are saved on our website under Information - Aspire Magazine.

This week we say “Bonjour et bienvenue.” To all students and staff from Collège Alfred Kastler (Merville-Franceville-Plage near Caen) as they join us on this first leg of our French Exchange. Many schools do not offer this traditional exchange experience any more, preferring to run trips and visits which supplement experience in another country. We think you the total absorption required in completing a partner exchange is invaluable and we have seen how students have grown in confidence and language skills after both parts of the trip. While I am sure there will be some nerves on both sides this week, students afterwards reflect on what a fabulous experience it is.

On Wednesday night we hold our first Parents’ Evening of the year, with Year 11 the first to set appointments to speak to their subject teachers about their progress. In particular subject teachers will talk about what students need to do to best prepare for their mock examinations, which take place in November/December.

On Thursday night our Year 10 students who are raising funds for their Namibia Trip have organised a Year 7 and 8 disco. At the start of the year this is a lovely event for students to mix and get to know their peers in a school event that will be supported by staff as well as the Year 10 students. Students must see Mrs Carr if they wish to purchase a ticket.

A final reminder to parents (and we will also be speaking to students) about the importance of good road safety now the clocks have changed and the evenings are getting darker.

Julia Upton