



Thursday 8th October 2026

MARIA'S NOTES :



The **school photographer** will come to school on Tuesday 13th October and Wednesday 14th October for the whole school. He will take class photos and individual photos. Can I ask all parents to be sure that their child is wearing a **perfect uniform** (polo shirt, sweat shirt, trousers or skirt, grey or white socks and dark leather brown or black shoes) from Early Years to Grade 11. Grade 12 & 13 should wear nice, appropriate clothes. Many thanks.

PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Wow, what a week we had last week in Primary school!

Firstly, last, Friday, at the end of French Day, we had a special assembly so that the winner of the 'guess the weight of the basket' competition could be announced. It was incredibly exciting, especially when we found out that four children had all guessed the correct weight! In true French democracy, the names were all put in a beret, and Miss Murielle picked out the winner...and the lucky winner was...Athina, from Grade 4! The money raised from the raffle will be used for activities during 'La Semaine du Goût' next week.

Le département de Français souhaite remercier tous ceux qui ont participé à la pesée du panier garni à l'occasion du French Day.

Le panier pesait très exactement 4,520 Kg.

Quatre élèves avaient estimé le poids à 4,500kg: Athéna de G4, Alicia de G2, Glenn de EY et Katherine de Rec. Après tirage au sort pendant l'assemblée, c'est Athena qui est repartie avec le panier.

L'argent récolté à cette occasion va permettre l'organisation de la semaine du goût, qui aura lieu du 12 au 16 octobre prochain.



On Monday last week, the newly appointed **House-Captains** went around the school and counted up all of the house points that have been collected by students since the beginning of term. There were literally thousands! There could only be one winner though, and just pipping everyone else to the post, was the green team! During Monday afternoon's assembly, House Captain, Clodagh came to the front to receive the silverware, as well as the all-important trophy for the tracker. Well done Green Team!



Green Trips

On Wednesday, Grades 4-6 headed to the Pyrenean village of Arette, where they spent three days mountain biking, rock climbing, discoing and discovering the local flora and fauna whilst hiking up at the ski station of La Pierre St Martin. Despite a little rain on Friday, the group were very lucky with the weather and had a fantastic time. There are loads more photos on Team ISB, if you haven't seen them.

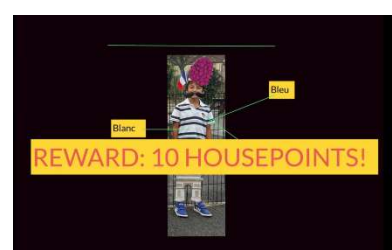
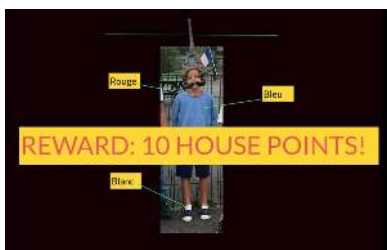


Grade 1-3 didn't want to be left out though, so on Thursday, off they went all the way to the beautiful Basque village of Aldudes, where they discovered the lives of the local pigs, did some orienteering and visited the old mines of Banca.



Both trips were absolutely fantastic and fun-filled, and the children were excellent ambassadors of ISB, bringing with them lots of enthusiasm, care for each other and great attitudes – well done! We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to the teachers and teaching assistants who accompanied the children, gave them lots of care, and ensured that everything went smoothly for everyone.

The famous ISB uniform scanner has been back in action the last two weeks, with various children being spotted by the scanner, and then awarded 10 house-points for wearing impeccable uniforms. This week, the scanner had even awarded children for being dressed correctly for French Day – in **bleu, blanc, rouge!**





This week's assembly was about **everybody's right to learn**. We started by watching a video about children who make amazing journeys to get to school. Some of them travelled by zipline! Some of them walked for days through snow and ice! Some of them even have to climb bamboo ladders, up to 800m (as tall as the Burj Khalifa!) to get home from their school!

Before even leaving the house in the morning, these children have huge obstacles in the way of their learning, but here at ISB, we can get to school easily, and when we get here, we have all of the things that we need: pens and paper; a classroom/school; teachers; people who listen to us etc.

This led us onto talking about what might stop us from learning, and the children came up with great suggestions – distractions, noise, people calling out, feeling worried etc. We reflected on the day, and thought about whether we had behaved in way that makes learning easier for others, or had we done anything that might make learning harder for others. It was an interesting question, and we agreed that sometimes, we all make mistakes and do something that hinders others' learning. This week, we are all going to try and keep this in mind during lessons and in the playground, and try to always behave in a way that helps others' learning.

Octobre Rose at ISB – *Hearts of Hope*



On Wednesday, the entire school got together in solidarity with those affected by cancer and wore a splash of pink to school, to compliment their uniforms. In class, following an idea by the **student council**, the children have created Hearts of Hope, which they have decorated and written the name of someone that they think deserves a little extra thought. We are going to create a beautiful school display in the atrium, with all of the hearts to remind us all of those special people in our lives.



Many of the children donated 1€ on the day, which we will add to the **50€ kindly donated by the PTA**, after their successful bakesale. The student council will count all of the money in next week's meeting and we'll let you know how much we have raised for *La Ligue Contre le Cancer*. **THANK YOU!!**

Next Week Reminders

Next week is *La Semaine du Goût* in France, so the French department have organised class visits to Les Halles de Pau (the food market), where they will complete a culinary treasure hunt. You should've received an email about this on Thursday – please make sure you follow the link on the email and complete the authorisation form. ON the day of your child's trip, please make sure they have a jacket with them!

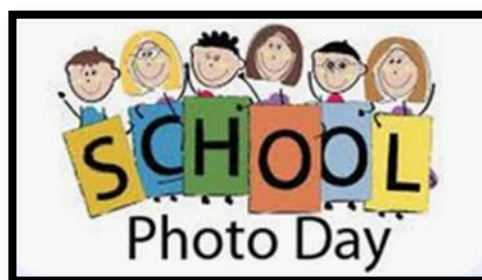
Disco tickets and pizza will still be on sale in the atrium each morning until Wednesday. The disco costs 2€ and pizza is 3€ a slice. All money made will be donated to OGFA (<https://www.ogfa.net/>), who we have worked with for the last few years. Children can bring a change of clothes for the disco which will take place after school on Thursday (15th) between the end of school and 1645.



Friday 16th October, is the last day of school which means it is **a non-uniform day!** EYFS – due to the off-site autumn walk, please come to school in school uniforms, with a change of clothes in a bag for the afternoon.

School Photos

The photographer will be coming to ISB on **Tuesday 13th October and on Wednesday 14th morning**. Please make sure that your children are wearing the full correct uniform for this day.



IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday 13th October – School photographer & morning Wednesday 14th Oct.

Wednesday 14th October (0900) – PTA Meeting (all parents welcome)

Thursday 15th October – EYFS and G1-6 Halloween Discos

Friday 16th October – EYFS Autumn walk at La Foret des Bastards

Friday 16th October – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MUFTI DAY (Non-uniform)

Monday 2nd November – School re-opens.

Monday 9th November (1435) – Grade 5 assembly (ALL **G5** Parents welcome)

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Early Years have had lots of fun exploring the colours, textures and treasures of autumn through a variety of creative and sensory activities. They experimented with rollers, brushes and sponges, mixing colours and creating artwork on leaves.



We also learned the ‘Autumn Weather Song’ and enjoyed accompanying it with a range of percussion instruments.





Reception has had a wonderfully engaging and productive couple of weeks! Practicing new sounds and starting to write short words both indoors and outdoors.

They are learning to measure and compare height practically using both non-standard units and standard units (like meters). They used vocabulary such as ‘short’, ‘tall’, ‘shorter’, and ‘tallest’ which help them understand concepts of comparison and build their language skills too.

They enjoyed playing on the “big children’s playground” during the school trips which was a real treat. What a memorable and enjoyable couple of weeks we had!







En classe de FLE, **Reception avec Miss Didi**, les élèves ont créé une jolie scène marine avec de la peinture, du sable et différentes matières.

Une activité créative pour explorer les couleurs et le vocabulaire de la mer en français tout en prenant plaisir à créer ensemble ! Bravo, Reception !

In French class with Miss Didi, the students created a lovely seaside scene using paint, sand and different materials. A creative activity that allowed to explore the colours and vocabulary of the sea while enjoying the pleasure of creating together.



Les petits élèves de **Reception, du groupe FLM**, avec Miss Murielle, ont travaillé sur le thème de l'automne.

Lots of crafts this week in **Grade 1**, from writing and painting to cooking delicious spiders. In Maths, we have been looking at symmetry and sorting 2D shapes.



Grade 2 have been thinking about mountains! We imagined that we were going on 3 different mountain missions. We had to work together to decide what we needed to take depending on the weather and environment.

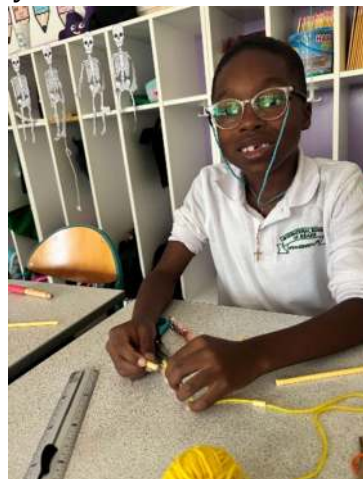
Then we made some beautiful paper collage mountains. Some of us went off to Aldudes on an adventure and enjoyed meeting some very cool pigs, working together on an orienteering mission and crossing a very fast river to get to the mines of Banca.

In class we have been making a giant map with all the things we found in the mountains and we have been comparing Aldudes to Pau.

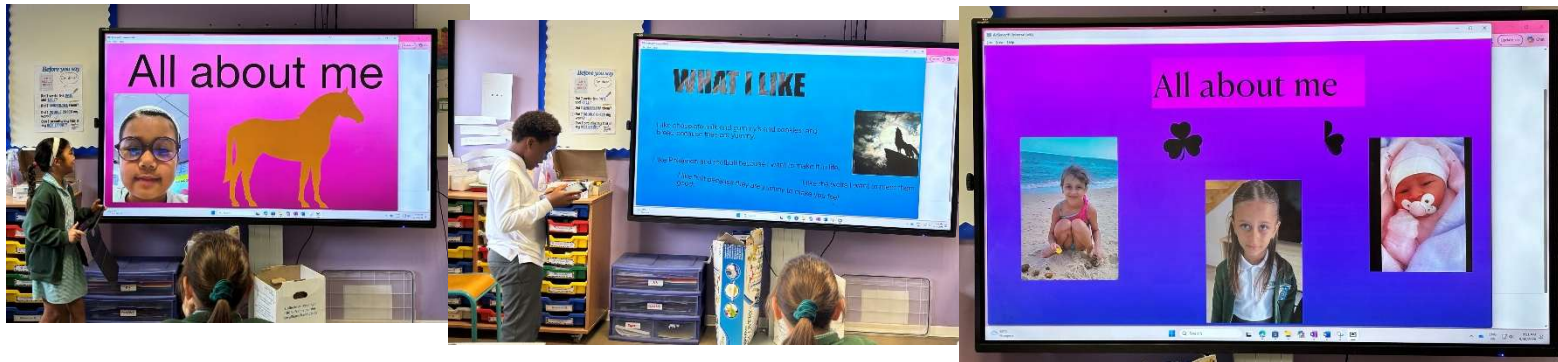




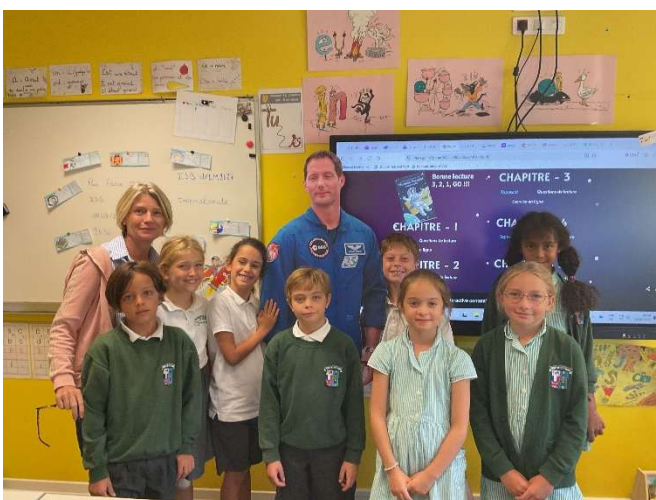
Grade 3 have been learning about bones and muscles in science. We made these fantastic robot hands to show how they work!



Grade 3 have been working on their autobiographies. We made keynote presentations and presented our work to the rest of the class.

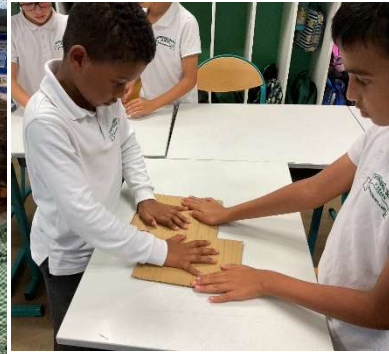


Grade 4: Let's see if we can build earthquake proof buildings! We tried with wooden bricks and Lego.... Which buildings stood the test of the super quake? We also programmed our microbits to become dice in our secondary computing lesson. Then, we played our times table game using our new electronic dice back in the classroom!



Les élèves de **Grade 4 du groupe FLM** travaillent sur le thème de l'Espace.

Grade 5 learning about tectonic plates in geography 😊



Grade 5 enjoyed a very well deserved golden time after filling their positive behaviour jar with smileys for fantastic lining up! #InspiringSuperBehaviour #InspiringSelfBelief





Grade 6 learning about mountain ranges!



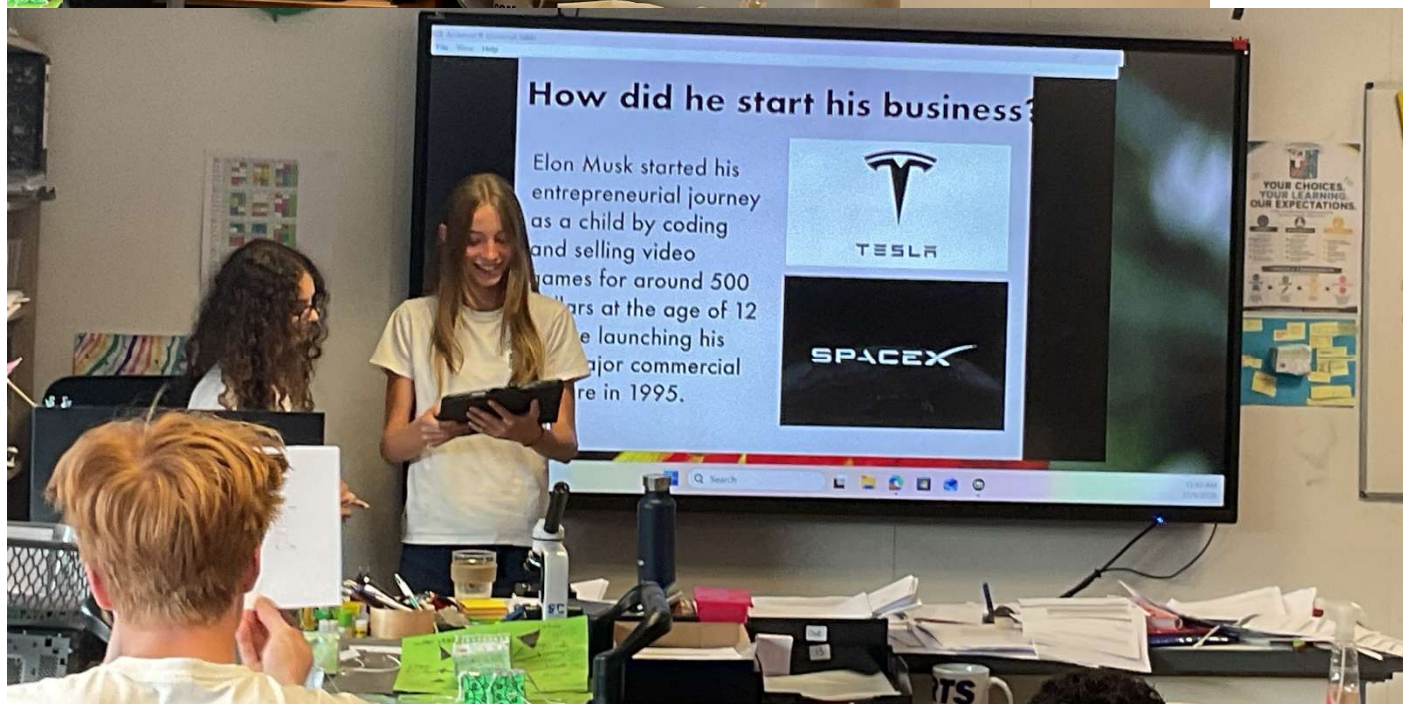
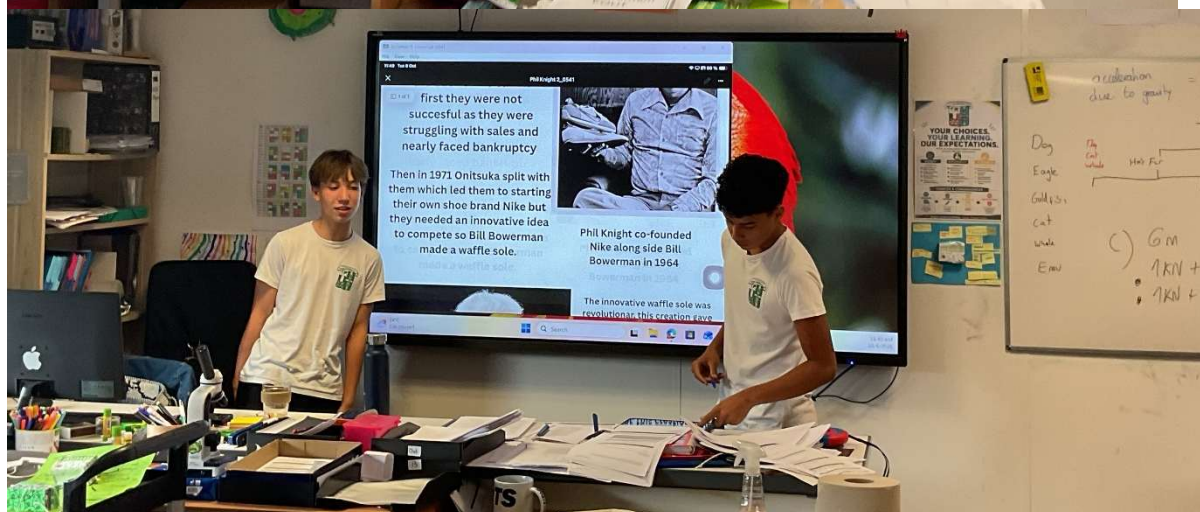
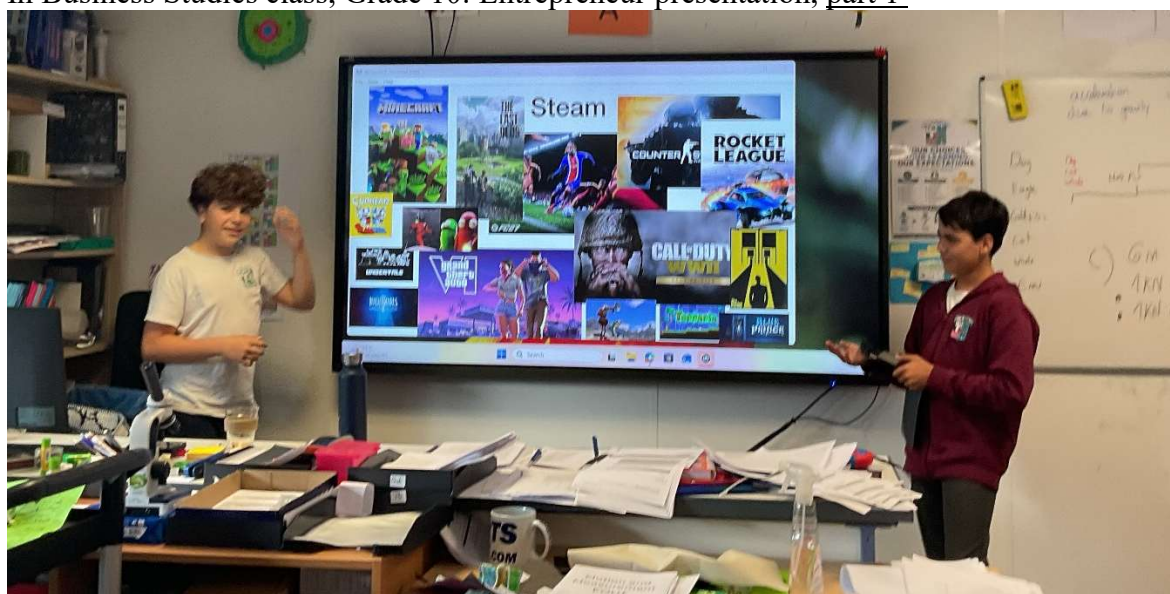


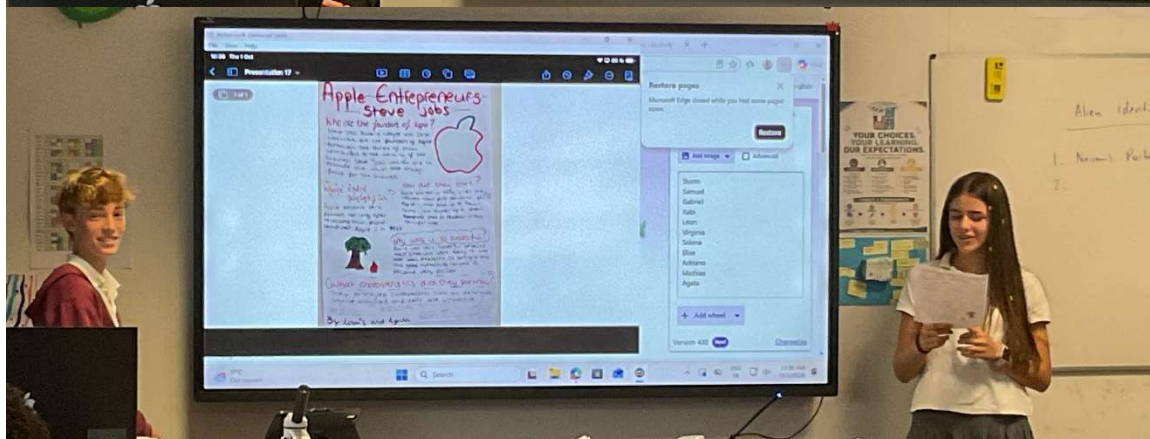
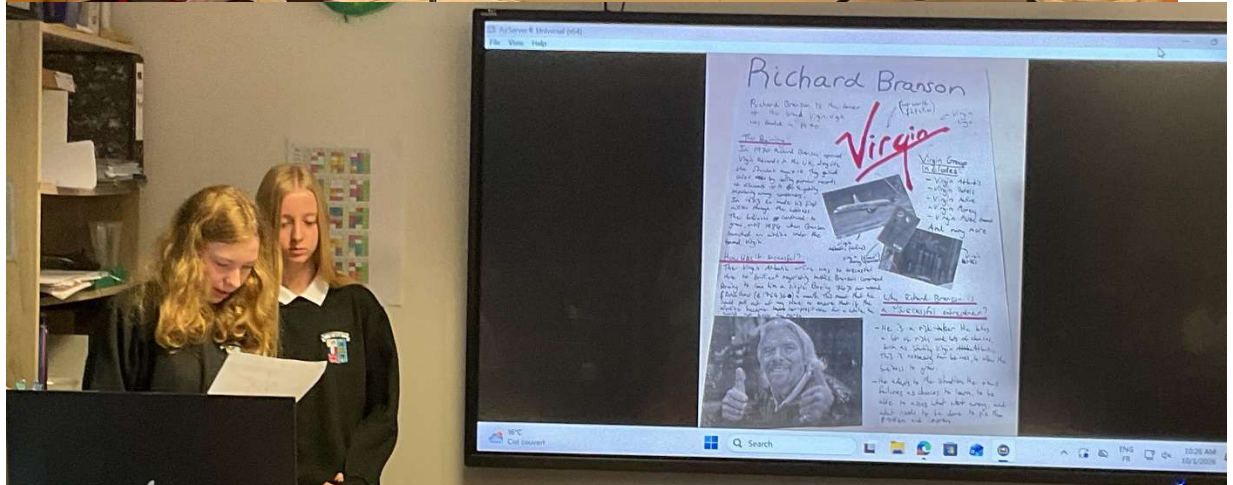
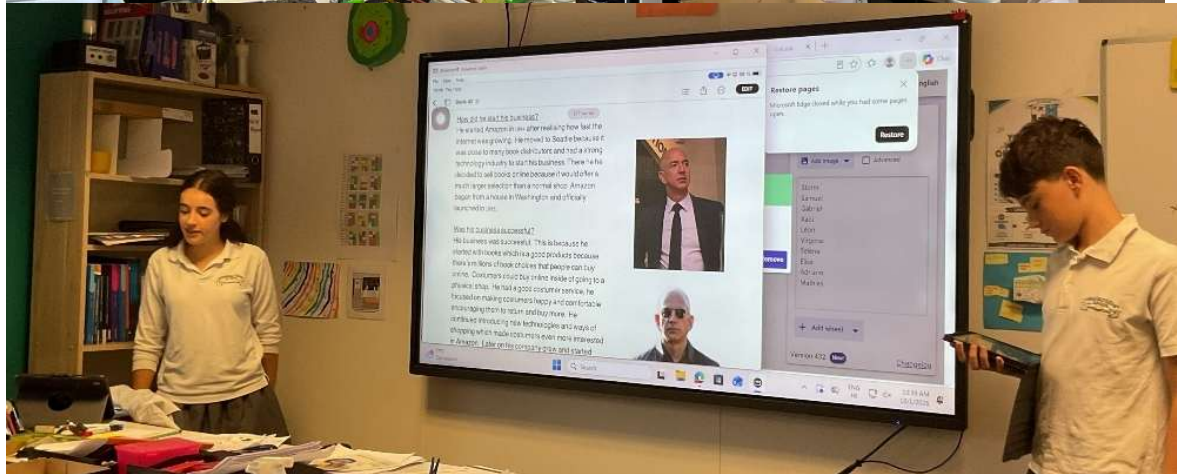
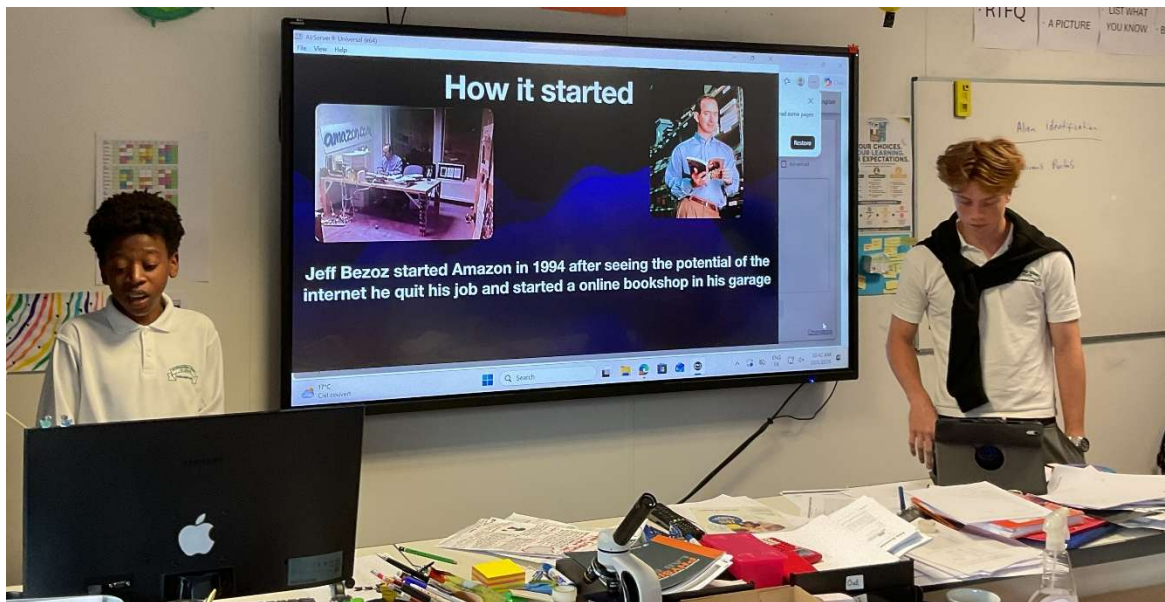
En classe de français avec Miss Didi, Grade 6 se prépare pour *la Semaine du Goût 2026* !
 Marchands, clients, fruits et caisse : la classe s'est transformée en un véritable petit marché !
 À travers des jeux de rôle, les élèves pratiquent le **français en situation réelle**, en apprenant à acheter des produits, demander les prix et échanger avec le marchand.
Une préparation gourmande et ludique avant leur grand Rallye du Goût aux Halles !

In French class with Miss Didi, Grade 6 is getting ready for *la Semaine du goût 2026*!
 Shopkeepers, customers, fruit and a till: the classroom has been transformed into a real little market!
 Through role-play activities, the students are practising **French in real-life situations**, learning how to buy products, ask for prices and interact with the shopkeeper.
A fun and delicious way to prepare for their big Taste Rally at the Marché des Halles!

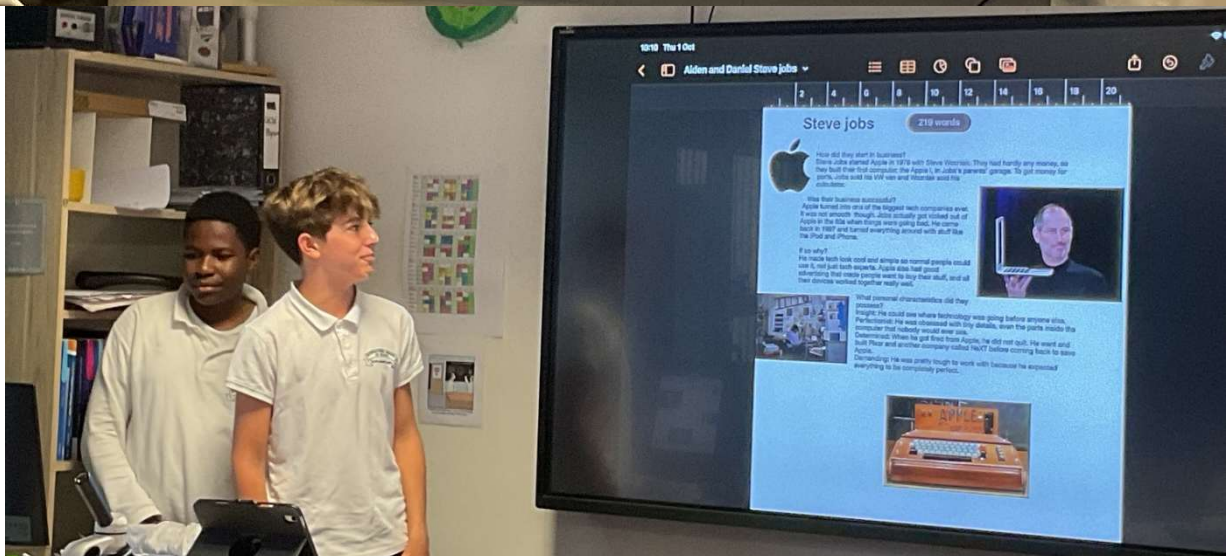
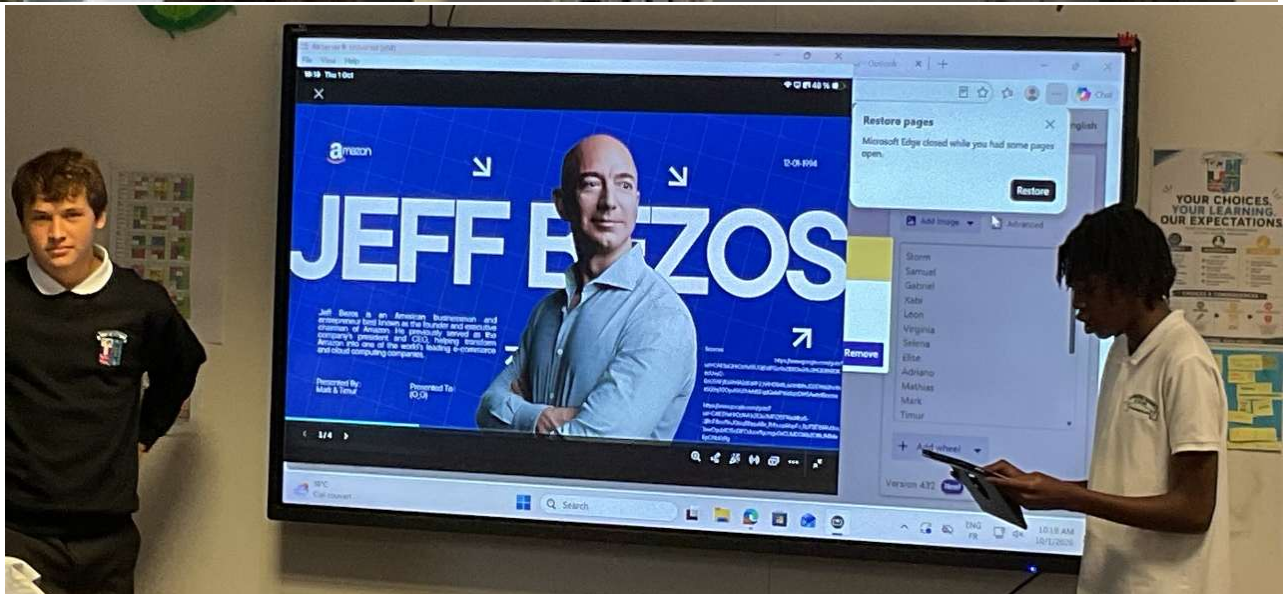
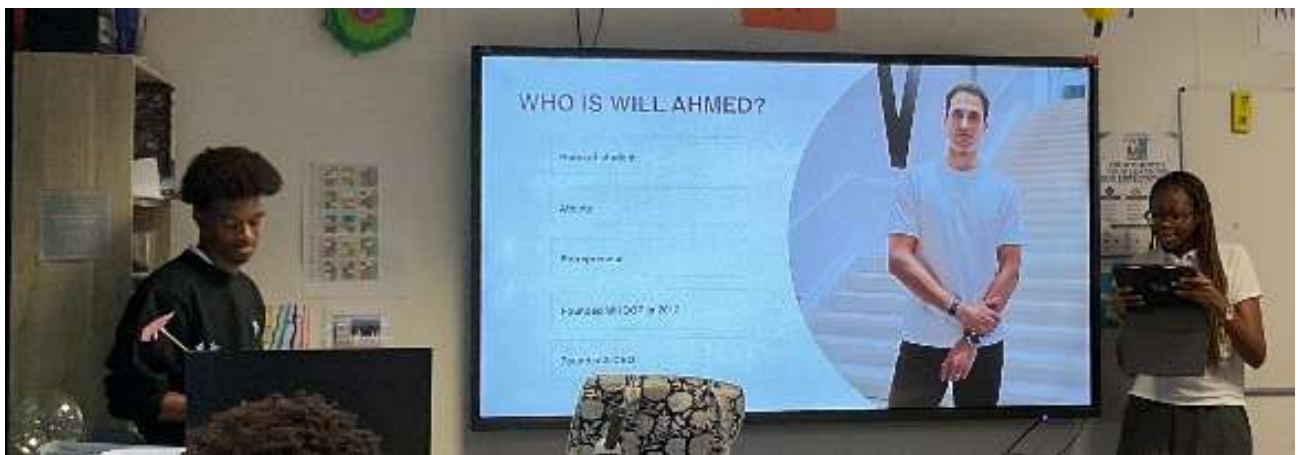


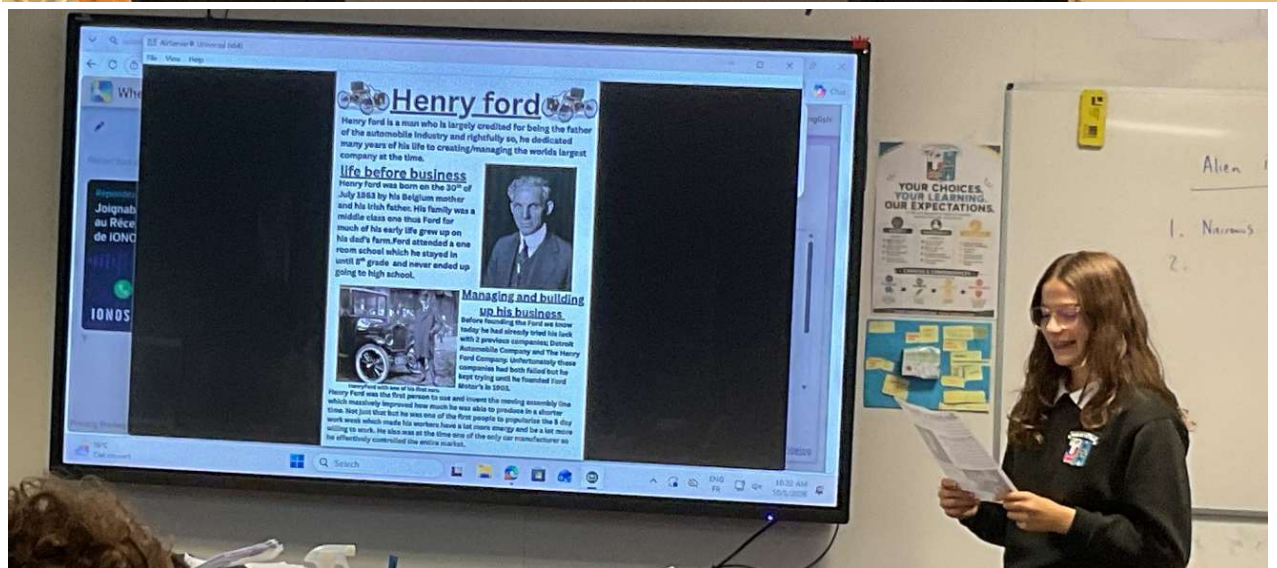
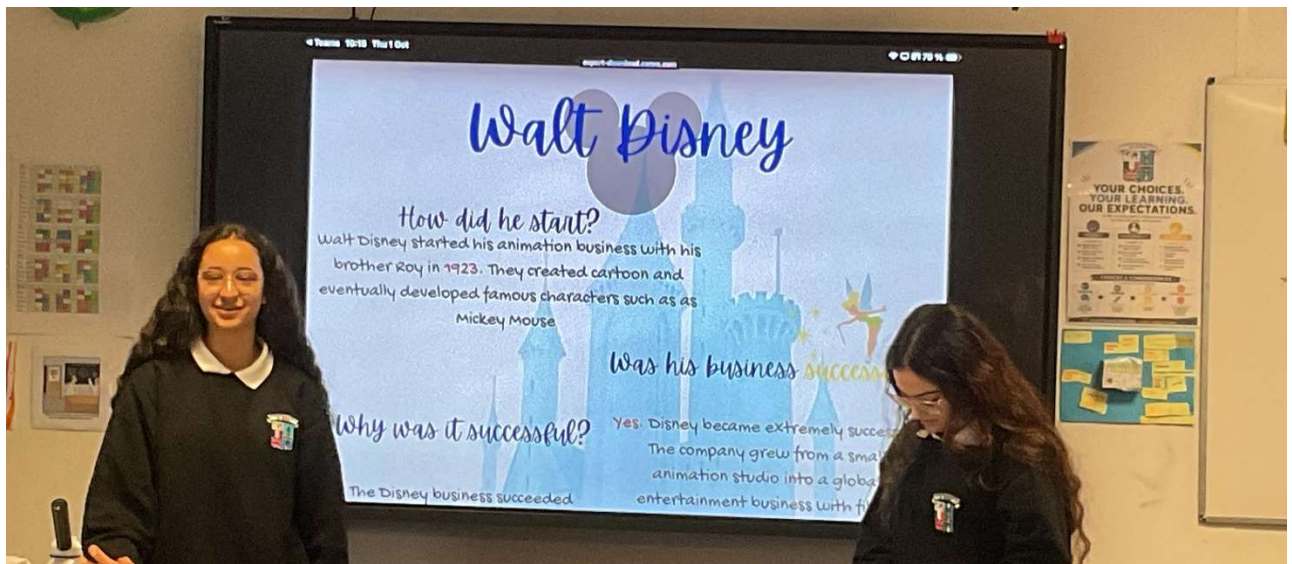
In Business Studies class, Grade 10: Entrepreneur presentation, part 1



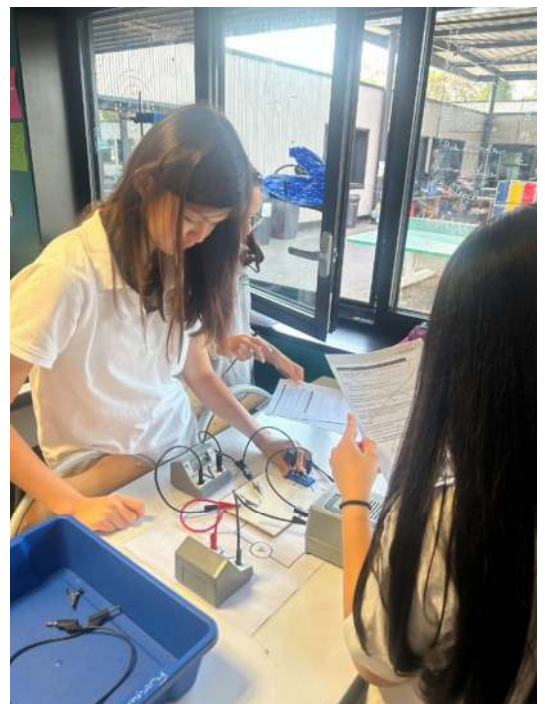


Grade 10: Entrepreneur presentation part 2





The **Grade 11, in Physics**, have been carrying out a series of experiments this week looking at fixed resistors and LDRs

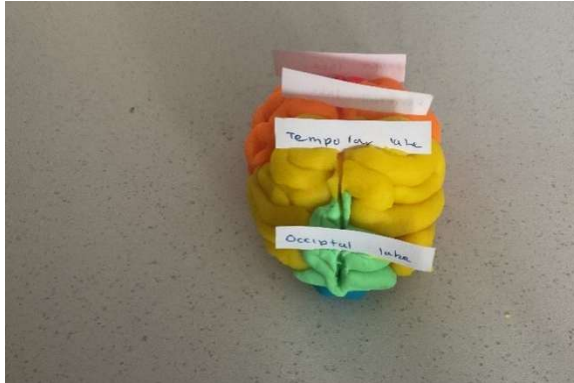
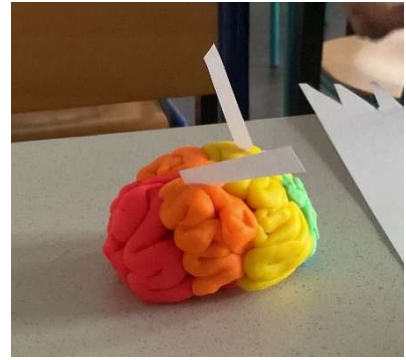




In **Grade 12 Psychology** students learned about the human brain, its different areas and functions. Look at this amazing brain hat!

The human brain was also at the centre of the **psychology club**. Now, we know that we cannot always trust our brain. And students built their own brain model. Beautiful and smart!



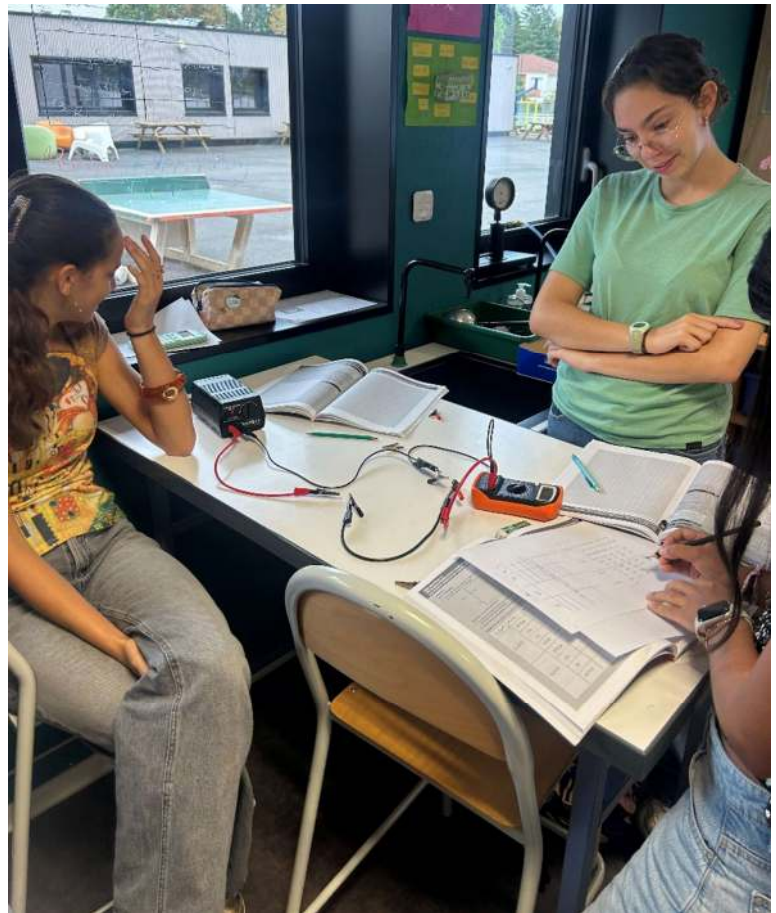
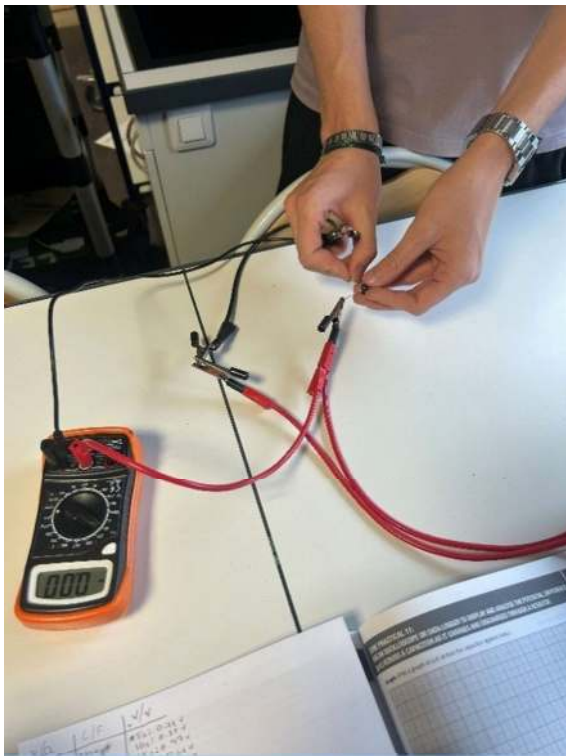


Grade 12 have been analysing different fruit juices to compare their amounts of antioxidants as part of our topic about reducing the risks of developing cardiovascular diseases.





The **Grade 13** having been investigating the exponential nature of the charging and discharging of capacitors this week.



From Friday after school until Sunday afternoon **Gold Level Duke of Edinburgh International Award** participants took part in a practice expedition in the Vallee d'Ossau. This included a wild-camp below Pic Midi d'Ossau and night navigation practice. The team coped fantastically and really impressed the staff with their positive attitude. Thanks also to the staff that took part, especially Mr Pearse who got up at 5am to join the group on Saturday morning.

Below is a short report by Bernice and Emilia, two of the Gold Level Participants:

"This weekend, we went to the Vallée d'Ossau for our 3 day practice expedition. There was an air of excitement and anticipation as we prepared our bags, minds and bodies for the hike. We navigated up and down the mountains using compasses and contour lines on an actual map - I know, old school. We passed by captivating rivers and lakes, hopped over hidden streams and came across Mother Nature at its finest. It was so incredible to spend some time in nature, hiking up tall mountains that left us all with a strong sense of accomplishment and very sweaty, stinky clothes. It was our first time wild camping and we learnt a lot. One, it gets really cold at night no matter how hot the day was. Two, night is the best time to take pictures. The dark, starry view in the middle of the wilderness was an experience we'll never be able to forget. A thunderstorm warning cut our fun short on the second day, as we made an early stop at col du Pourtalet to eat lunch before heading to a campsite with actual showers. To make up for the part of the hike not done, we had an orienteering activity that tested team spirit and your internal compass. Even though we had our fun, singing in the back of a van and talking, nothing beats the feeling of sleeping in your own bed, freshly showered, without 16 kilos worth on your back."





SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

Parents Evenings, Exams and Report Dates for Term 1

Date	Event
13 October	G10 Parents Evening 16:00 – 17:50
15 October	G11, 12, 13 Progress Reports published
12 November	Update emails sent to G11 parents if concerns ahead of mock exams
17 November	G12 and 13 Parents Evening 16:00 – 17:50
29 Nov – 10 Dec	G11, 12, 13 Mock Exams
15 December	G7, 8, 9, 10 End of Term reports published

Dates for your Calendar

Date(s)	Event
17 October – 01 November	Half Term break

Booking Parents Evenings

Booking for all Parents Evening is through the Parent Portal. See below for details of how to make your appointment.

To book appointments:

1. Log into the Parent Portal at <https://parents.isbearn.com/> and click on 'Meetings' on the menu bar
2. Next click on 'Make an Appointment' and select the subject and required appointment time.

You should have received an email with your credentials to log into the Parent Portal; your username will start with family....@isbearn.com. If you do not have your credentials please contact either myself ann.byrne@isbearn.com or Mr Pearse james.pearse@isbearn.com

Planning Ahead – G10 Work Experience

All G10 students are encouraged to participate in 'Work Experience' or here in France you will hear this referred to as 'un stage'. Ideally students should research and approach local employers to find work experience in a field that interests them, and in which they may wish to pursue a future career; in reality it is often the parent's workplace or 'friend of the family' who offer the work placements. Regardless of how the work placement is found it offers a great experience for students to spend time in a work environment and to learn valuable skills.

Work placements should be:

- 1 – 2 weeks in duration
- **Organised for a time during school holidays**

Students/parents will need to:

- Contact Maria for a 'Convention du Stage' ahead of the work placement
- Email Ms Byrne ann.byrne@isbearn.com after the work experience with details of the dates of the placement and the employers contact details.

Grade 10 is an ideal year for students to undertake work experience and we thoroughly recommend that students take advantage of this being a 'lighter' year before exams take place; however, **it is also possible to complete work experience in the higher grades and the same criteria apply as listed above.**

*Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria*