

Monday 7 November



Our French exchange partner students and staff arrived safely on Thursday last week and will remain with us until Thursday this week. All enjoyed some sporting activities to help get to know each other on Friday afternoon and with much excitement for their arrival hosts and visitors seemed to be getting along swimmingly. It is interesting to note the hospitable nature as our students make the effort to speak more French while the exchange students are in Britain and the reverse occurs when our students are in France. This is the second year that the school has worked with Collège Alfred Kastler (Merville-Franceville-Plage near Caen) and we are delighted that the friendship between the two schools is already a strong one.

This week we welcome back our former Year 11 students for their Awards Evening. Jack Abbot, former student and local councillor will present the awards and share his insight into 'life after Debenham' on the evening. The ceremonies commence at 7.00pm and there will be refreshments and a chance to catch up afterwards.

Advance notice that the Friends' Annual Quiz Night is to be held on Friday 25 November. This always proves to be a competitive affair and with the winning Green family all set to compete again this year, the challenge has been laid down. More details to follow in the week ahead.

Finally, on Friday this week we will hold our Remembrance Service for Year 7 and 8 in St Mary's Church. We are pleased that the Royal British Legion and armed services will be represented by our Chair of Governors and formerly Warrant Officer, David Carruthers. Students will consider the meaning of remembrance and take part in the act as a school community. We will lay wreaths and individual crosses to remember the fallen from our community. This poem will be read by one of our Year 8 Leaders in the service.

I do not know your name by Kenny Martin -

*I do not know your name, but I know you died
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died*

*Your uniform, branch of service, it matters not to me
Whether Volunteer or Conscript, or how it came to be
That politicians' failures, or some power-mad ambition
Brought you too soon to your death, in the name of any nation*

*You saw, you felt, you knew full well, as friend and foe were taken
By bloody death, that your life too, was forfeit and forsaken
Yet on you went and fought and died, in your close and private hell
For Mate or Pal or Regiment and memories never to tell*

*It was for each other, through shot and shell, the madness you endured
Side by side, through wound and pain, and comradeship assured
No family ties, or bloodline link, could match that bond of friend
Who shared the horror and kept on going, at last until the end*

*We cannot know, we were not there, it's beyond our comprehension
To know the toll that battle brings, of resolute intention
To carry on, day by day, for all you loved and hoped for
To live in peace a happy life, away from bloody war*

*For far too many, no long life ahead, free of struggle and pain and the gun
And we must remember the price that was paid, by each and every one
Regardless of views, opinions aside, no matter how each of us sees it
They were there and I cannot forget, even though I did not live it*

*I do not know your name, but I know you died
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died.*

Julia Upton