



Friday 6th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a good week.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions. Also Lauren my PA can be contacted at lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk. Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

Active Bystander Campaign - Kent Police-

On Monday 2nd June 2025 a new campaign was launched by Kent and Medway's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to help young people calm down potentially violent situations.

The VRU has previously seen incidences such as bullying, abusive relationships and violence rise when children head back to school for the final term of the year. In 2024, the number of incidents spiked in the final term months of the year compared to the previous two school terms.

The "Clock it, Check it, Change it" campaign aims to tackle the "bystander effect" and help young people become an "active bystander". The "bystander effect" is when someone is subjected to threatening behaviour and bystanders turn a blind eye and don't intervene or report it.

Kent and Medway VRU have dealt with many cases of youth-on-youth violence in the area. Through its work, the Unit has recognised that many young people who witness violence wished they had been able to stop it but didn't know how.

"The Clock it, Check it, Change it campaign, created with young people, is about helping them become more aware of how to handle potentially violent and escalating situations. It's natural to want to look away and do things like look at their phone or turn their music up to avoid having to listen to an argument, but we're asking young people to take a second look and assess rather than avoid the situation. Looking again can help you decide how to help.

According to the most recent Police Crime Commissioner's Youth Survey, just over one in four young people in Kent have been harassed on their way to and from school. Even if they hadn't been targeted directly, one in three said they had felt frightened during these journeys. Although many reported their concerns to a parent or guardian, almost a third told no-one about their experience. T

The campaign's advice to young people is to:

1. Clock it – recognise a situation that is challenging and the natural reaction to look away or walk on by
2. Check it – consider safe and appropriate ways to respond
3. Change it – take positive action that helps reduce harm

If you wish to read more about this please visit- www.kentandmedwayvru.co.uk/activebystander or see the leaflet attached for more information.

KCC's SENDCAST-

SEND information Hub, have released their first SENDCAST episode, which is designed for families at the beginning of their SEND journey to help them know about support available in Kent.

To listen, just scan the QR Code.



Family Hub-

Family Hub is working with Autism Central to offer parents a drop in session monthly at Infozone, to help support parents and carers of autistic people. The experienced staff can answer questions, offer guidance and help provide access to further support.

Please find attached the leaflet highlighting when these sessions take place. With the next being Friday 4th July, 12-1.30pm.

Finally also attached is information about 'The Bread and Butter Thing'. These are Hubs, which help make life more affordable for people on low incomes. This enables families to get £35 worth of food for £8.50 and is open every Wednesday at 2pm. There are now hubs in Shepway, Parkwood, Trinity House, Maidstone.

In order to access this, you will need to become a member and sign up and book a slot.

Please see the attached leaflets for how to sign up to your preferred Hub.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher