



ST PHILIP'S COLLEGE

## YEAR 11 ASPIRE 2026

Date preferences now open

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### ACTION REQUIRED:

Information Night – 6:30pm, Monday, 23 February 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compulsory abseil sessions – long breaks 11-13 May 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical information, consent, and date preference given by Monday, 23 March 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-trip Meeting 1:00pm-2:55pm – 5 June 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Dear Year 10 Parents/Guardians and Year 10 Students,

Preparation has commenced for Year 11 Aspire. Aspire is a significant and exciting opportunity for current Year 10 students to extend and challenge themselves. The exciting and well-regarded course is the culmination of the College's Outdoor Education program and offers unique challenges and opportunities for self-development, communication, and leadership enhancement.

Please read the following information below carefully. Please register your interest immediately stating your preference, attend the Information Night in February 2026 and submit forms by the due dates.

### LODGE YOUR PREFERENCE

Lodge your preference to indicate how your young person would like to be involved in 2026. This will then be taken into consideration when planning precise departure dates for Aspire. **The College expects that all students attend one of the options** and that they participate to the best of their ability in all activities whilst on the program. If a student cannot attend, normal classes will **not** be provided by the College. If your young person will not participate in this important part of the College curriculum, a written explanation is required and please email this to: [outdoor.education@stphilips.nt.edu.au](mailto:outdoor.education@stphilips.nt.edu.au) by Friday, 5 December 2025.

### PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING – all students should attend

An Information Night will be held on Monday, 23 February 2026 in The Minnamurra Hall at 6:30pm. It is compulsory that students and parents/guardians attend this meeting to make themselves aware of all the requirements of the trip they will attend.

### YEAR 11 ASPIRE PROGRAM DATES

- Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 2, 2026
- Monday, 8 June to Wednesday, 17 June
- Tuesday, 9 June to Thursday, 18 June
- Wednesday, 10 June to Friday, 19 June

Students will be notified of their departure dates for this course in 2026 once they are confirmed.

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### *YEAR 11 ASPIRE – 10-DAY EXPEDITION with Stage 1 Outdoor Education and 10 SACE Credits*

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The program will be operated in the West MacDonnell National Park and surrounding area to the west of Standley Chasm. This area lends itself well to the various adventure activities the students undertake, such as bushwalking, abseiling, rock climbing, canyoning and a 48-hour solo. The level of adventure is high, the course is significant, with an achievable physical challenge for Year 11 students.

This course focuses particularly on leadership, communication, self-reflection and the environment. It is an extension of the Year 9 Endeavour and Year 10 Mittagundi / Wollangarra programs, in that it follows the same style, and challenges the students in similar ways. Although the students learn several bush craft skills, this is not the primary purpose of Aspire. The course aims to build confidence, raise self-esteem, increase initiative, encourage leadership and develop strategies that can be used successfully, individually or in a group.

The Aspire Expedition is also recognised as a Stage 1 10-credit subject which will be shown on students' academic transcripts, all students will be required to complete the Aspire Reflective Report following the experience. Some may even complete a component of this task while on expedition.

### **SHORTER 7-DAY EXPEDITION**

This program follows the first seven days of the program and departs on the morning the 48-solo begins. Therefore, the level of adventure and challenge is still high for students and the course is still significant. Students on the 7-day program will be given the option to stay on and finish the program if they wish. It is highly recommended for students to complete the full course if they are striving for a leadership position.

### **EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF YEAR 11 ASPIRE**

The leadership skills, communication skills, and self-reflection structured into this course will assist students in their preparation for positions of responsibility within the College, as well as their future years of study and/or in the workforce. Year 11 Aspire presents itself as an excellent preparatory course for students wishing to apply for College leadership positions in Year 12. Some of the objectives of the course are:

- To have students understand more about the dynamics of leadership, including leadership styles and techniques through theoretical study and practical experimentation.
- To have students better their communication skills, particularly when dealing with large groups.
- For students to learn techniques that facilitate effective communication, through theoretical discussion and practical experience.
- For students to be provided with time to assess who they are as a person, and where they are going in the near future. This introspective thought process will be free from the pressures of their parents, teachers, friends and peers. This time will include setting goals for the future that will help them keep 'on track' for their life's journey.

I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Information Night. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at the College by phone or email if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



**Emma Shearer**  
**Head of Outdoor Education**

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