



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

CREATIVE WRITING WEEK 10th – 15th JULY 2017

For many years now, the Associated Sixth Form has been taking students to a writing centre to develop their creative writing skills. In 2017 we will be going to Ty Newydd at Crickieth which is the National Writers' Centre for Wales and was also the home and final resting place of North Wales' only Prime Minister, David Lloyd George. The house is situated in its own grounds, just outside Crickieth, overlooking the sea to the mountains beyond. It is a 20 minute walk to the sea along a public footpath and there are beautiful walks along a river from the house itself.

The purpose of the week is to work in a creative environment with professional writers: novelists and poets. The emphasis is on self-motivation and commitment to individual creative work in an intensive environment with tutors on hand to give advice. Such a method of working is good preparation for university. Students are given the time and tuition to develop their skills in any genre of writing. Through writing and drafting their own work, students should become more critically aware in a way that will help them with their studies. Past experience has shown that students benefit from working together with established writers, producing work of a very high standard. The writing week is suited to any student wishing to take an arts-based degree including drama and, obviously, creative writing.

In addition to the academic work, students benefit from taking responsibility for general tidiness, helping to prepare the main meal of the day, keeping log baskets filled etc. The cooking is kept as simple as possible and the Directors of the Centre are available to give advice. Dinner is cooked by groups, who take it in turn (one evening each) and is the only formal meal of the day. Students prepare their own breakfast and lunch.

Sixteen students are able to attend the writing week. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. The cost of the week is **£440.00**. This is a large sum but includes coach travel from school to Crickieth, food, tuition and all other expenses. Students will only need to bring a small amount of pocket money. **Please note that the group will return to Harrogate on Saturday 15th July at approximately 12pm.**

If you wish your son/daughter to take part in this trip, would you please pay a deposit of £140 by Parent Pay. If you do not have a login then contact Mrs Clare Dowson, finance department at St Aidan's. We will accept cheques so if you wish to pay by cheque then please complete the attached consent form and return it in a clearly marked envelope along with your deposit and put it in the Catering Box outside the finance office by **Thursday 13th October**. As the deposits will be paid to Ty Newydd, they should be viewed as non-refundable. Further payments will be due in February of £150.00 and the final payment in April of £150.00, reminder letters will be sent out. Should you have any queries about this trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

S Pickford
St Aidan's English Department

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I would like my son/daughter to take part in the above visit and enclose a non-refundable deposit of £140 made payable to 'St Aidan's School Fund'.

Student's name Tutor Group

Signed Parent/Guardian Date

Please complete and place, with your deposit cheque, in the Catering Card Box in the Finance Dept by Thursday 13th October.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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