



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Creative Writing Week, 10-15 July 2018

For many years now, the Associated Sixth Form has been taking students to a writing centre to develop their creative writing skills. In 2018 we will be returning to Ty Newydd at Criccieth which is the National Writers' Centre for Wales and 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 Criccieth, 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 **£390.00**. This is a large sum but includes tuition, accommodation, food, coach travel from school to Criccieth 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 15 July at approximately 12:00pm.**

If you wish your son/daughter to take part in this trip, please pay a deposit of £140.00 by ParentPay. Please contact Mrs Clare Dowson in the Finance Department at St Aidan's if you do not have a login. We accept cheques, so if you wish to pay by this method, 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 12 October**. As the deposits will be paid to Ty Newydd, they should be viewed as non-refundable. Further payments of £125.00 will be due on 16 February and 27 April 2018, 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.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

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School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. When accompanying children on a school trip, staff are acting in *loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that pupils are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip the school staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

The school will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the wellbeing of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the pupil onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the trip leader, the head of year and senior staff. Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip then, if in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, staff have concerns again about the pupil's participation in the trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place.

Regards

S Pickford
St Aidan's English Department



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Creative Writing Week 10 – 15 JULY 2018

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 Department by Thursday 12 October.

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