



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

June 2017

Dear Year 7 Pupil and Parents

YEAR 8 OUTWARD BOUND TRIP TO ULLSWATER **11-15 December 2017** **Forms C,D,E and G**
18-22 December 2017 **Forms P,S,W and Y**

I write to you with regard to the annual Year 8 Outdoor Education Course, which will be held at The Outward Bound Centre at Ullswater in the Lake District, occupying a stunning location. The accommodation is comfortable and the buildings are set in grounds that have a long waterfront on the western shore of the lake. The proximity to superb sites for a wide range of outdoor activities is therefore quite exceptional. The instructors are well-qualified and experienced practitioners who have the ability to provide a challenging, yet enormously rewarding experience for all participants.

The course that we will follow at Ullswater is tailor-made for us, and is built on Outward Bound's 'Adventure and Challenge' model. The sort of activities on offer will be canoeing/kayaking, rock climbing, raft building, hill walking and scrambling, gorge walking, mountain navigation and there are a variety of on-centre activities such as high ropes and initiative exercises. The centre has some large rowing boats on the lake that a whole group of twelve pupils can use to visit an island or an inaccessible part of the shore. Some may row across the lake to go hill walking or rock climbing, rowing back at the end of the day. The Year 8 Ullswater trip will undoubtedly become one of those great memories that youngsters have of their time at St Aidan's School.

Although outdoor activities form the basis of this trip, it is enormously beneficial in so many other ways. For many pupils, a full week may be the longest period they have spent away from home, and looking after themselves is a very important part of the experience. Instructors place great emphasis on personal development during the week and working with others is also an important element of the course. As teachers, we frequently see enormous positive benefits and real changes in individuals after taking part in this trip. Further information can be gained from the website www.theoutwardboundtrust.org.uk.

The cost of the trip, including coach travel is £300.00, which represents extremely good value for a course of this quality and type. The trip is limited to 100 places on each week. All equipment is provided including boots, waterproof trousers and jackets and there is really no need for very much spending money. The pupils will be asked for £10.00 upon arrival as a deposit for all the clothing and equipment they will use during the week; this will be refunded to them when they return all the items. The cost of the trip is legally regarded as a voluntary contribution but the trip can only take place if sufficient participants are able to meet this proposed cost.

We are splitting payment for the trip into two payments, the first payment will be £150.00 and is due on Friday 14 July and the second payment will be £150.00, which will be due on Friday 13 October 2017 (a reminder letter will be sent out). Our preferred method of payment for this trip is via ParentPay. You will be able to view the balance due as well as giving online consent for the trip. Please note payments by cheque are still accepted. If this is your preferred method of payment, please complete the consent slip below and return it to the Finance Department at school, together with your deposit (cheques payable to St Aidan's School Fund).

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

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The Outward Bound Centre send us specific forms for completion by parents / guardians and pupils. Once we have received your initial deposit, we will post these to your home for you to complete and return to school as The Outward Bound

Centre require these a month before the pupils arrive at the Centre. Please note that St Aidan's School and the Centre will keep the information confidential.

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.

Booking places on trips, which are then not taken, is very costly and causes great difficulty for St Aidan's and the Centre. Therefore, I am afraid that deposits are non-refundable.

Should you have any queries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator, on 01423 818527 or myself.

Yours faithfully

D Holdworth
Co-ordinator Outdoor Education

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YEAR 8 - OUTWARD BOUND ULLSWATER 11-15 December Forms C,D,E,G
18-22 December Forms P,S,W,Y

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the Outward Bound trip to Ullswater. I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £150.00. (Cheques made payable to St. Aidan's School Fund).

Pupil's Name Tutor Group

Signed (Parent/Guardian) Date.....

If you are paying by cheque, please complete this form and return with the deposit by Friday 14 July 2017

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