



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

September 2018

Dear Year 10 Parent/Guardian

Outward Bound Residential at Loch Eil – Saturday 30 March to Friday 5 April 2019

I write to you with regard to the annual Year 10 Outdoor Education course based at the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil, near Fort William, on the West Coast of Scotland. This **7-day residential** has become extremely popular and we regard this trip in school as one of the most challenging and rewarding activity courses.

Outward Bound is an outdoor activities provider of the highest calibre and they enjoy a first class reputation. Accommodation, equipment and staff expertise are superb and the centre, close to the foot of Ben Nevis, is surrounded by some of Britain's finest and wildest scenery.

The typical Itinerary for the Loch Eil trip would include the following:-

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| Day 1 am | Travel to Loch Eil |
| pm | Settle in. Night exercise |
| Day 2 am | Initiative and team building tasks |
| pm | Climbing/abseiling |
| Evening | Multi-task competition |
| Day 3 am | High challenge activity |
| pm | Kayak |
| Day 4 am | Raft building |
| pm | High challenge/team building initiatives |
| Evening | Expedition preparation |
| Day 5 | Expedition |
| Day 6 am | Expedition return |
| pm | High challenge/zip wire |
| Evening | Final dinner / Course review |
| Day 7 am | Depart for Harrogate |

Outward Bound put great emphasis on the personal development and confidence building aspect of the activities that we do, encouraging individual and group responsibility. The course should appeal to

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

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anyone who has an interest in the outdoors and we hope that it will provide an opportunity for all students to excel and be challenged!

The cost of the course, including return travel by coach from St Aidan's to the Centre is £495.00, which represents extremely good value for a course of this quality and type. The Centre will provide all equipment including boots, waterproof trousers and Gore-Tex jackets and students will need to pay a £10.00 deposit on arrival. The Centre refund this money at the end of the week if the students return all the equipment. Students will require very little spending money as everything is included.

If your son or daughter is interested in a place on this exciting residential trip, please pay the first deposit of £165.00 on ParentPay by Friday 5 October 2018. Further payments of £165.00 are due by Friday 30 November 2018 and Friday 1 February 2019 respectively (reminder emails will be sent out).

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online you are agreeing to your child taking part on the trip and the cost and confirming that your child's medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Please note that **all payments for this trip are non-refundable** unless we can find a replacement student to fill the place, as we have to make regular payments to The Outward Bound Centre. I would be grateful therefore if you could discuss the details carefully with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.

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.

Once we reach the deadline date Friday 5 October 2018, the Trip Leader, Head of Year and Senior Staff will look at the behaviour, attendance and wellbeing of all pupils who have registered on the trip to decide whether they are able to cope with these demands. If we decide that the Loch Eil trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and we will return the deposit in this case.

Once accepted onto the trip, if we have any concerns about a pupil's participation on the trip in the time between gaining a place and the departure, **the Headteacher of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

Outward Bound send specific medical forms for completion by parents/guardians and pupils. Once we have received your initial deposit, we will forward a form for completion which must be returned

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immediately to school, as Outward Bound require these **at least one month** before arrival at the Centre. Please note that both St Aidan's School and Outward Bound will keep the information confidential.

The Centre at Loch Eil has the capacity to accommodate 105 students. If we are oversubscribed, the names of all students who have paid the deposit by the deadline date will be put into a hat and a senior member of staff will draw names. Deposits will be refunded to any student who is not successful and we will start a waiting list.

Further information can be obtained on the school website www.staidans.co.uk or www.outwardbound-uk.org but if you have any queries about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact r Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator, on 01423 818527 or myself.

Kind regards

D Holdsworth
Assistant Head and Outdoor Education Coordinator

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