



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

June 2019

Dear Year 7 Pupil and Parents

YEAR 8 OUTWARD BOUND TRIP - Monday 9 December to Friday 13 December 2019

I write to you about the optional Year 8 Outdoor Education Course, which will take place in December 2019 at three different Outward Bound Centres - Ullswater and Howtown in the Lake District and Ogwen Cottages in Snowdonia. The Centres all offer a wide range of outdoor activities and their locations are exceptional with stunning views and endless opportunities. The instructors are well-qualified and experienced practitioners with the ability to provide a challenging, yet enormously rewarding experience for all participants.

The course that we will follow at all three centres is tailor-made for our students at St Aidan's 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 together with a variety of on-centre activities such as high ropes and initiative exercises. The Year 8 Outward Bound trip will undoubtedly become one of those great memories that youngsters have of their time at St Aidan's School.

Students will be able to choose the friends they wish to be with and where appropriate, we will put them together in one of the three centres. The accommodation is comfortable in all three centres, the food is plentiful and freshly served offering a good variety and the centres cater for all dietary requirements. Further information is available from Outward Bound's website www.theoutwardboundtrust.org.uk. It is important to note that there are limited spaces for this trip. A waiting list will be set up should the trip become oversubscribed.

Although outdoor activities form the basis of this trip, it is enormously beneficial in so many other ways. For many pupils, a 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; 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.

The cost of the trip, including coach travel will be between **£310.00 and £325.00**, which represents extremely good value for a course of this quality and type. The Centre will provide all equipment including boots, waterproof trousers and 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 trip, please pay the first deposit payment **of £75.00 on ParentPay by Friday 12 July 2019**. The final price will be confirmed in September and further instalments payment will be due by **Friday 13 September 2019** and by **2 November 2019**. Reminder emails will be sent out to parents with any additional information required for the trip.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

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Important Information

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to The Outward Bound Centre.

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after 12 July 2019, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your child withdraws**, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by the Outward Bound Trust. **For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail 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.

At the beginning of the new term in September 2019, 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 the Outward Bound trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and we will return deposits 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 Head of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and the cost of the trip may not be refunded.**

The Outward Bound will send us specific medical forms which parents/guardians and pupils will need to complete. Once your child's place is confirmed on the trip, we will give your child a form for completion which must be returned immediately to school as The Outward Bound Centre require these **at least one month** before our arrival at the Centre. Please note that St Aidan's School and the Centre will keep the information confidential.

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.

Kind regards

Mr Holdsworth
Assistant Head & Co-ordinator Outdoor Education

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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