

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Creative Writing Week, Monday 29 June to Saturday 4 July 2020

For many years now, the Associated Sixth Form has been taking students to a writing centre to develop their creative writing skills. In 2020, 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 significantly 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.

Numbers for this course are limited to 16 students and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The number of students who wish to go determines the cost of a trip, however based on last summer's trip, we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £450.00-£500.00. This is a large sum but includes specialist 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 4 July 2020 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 by Friday 27 September 2019. Please contact Mrs Holey (h.holey@staidans.co.uk) in the Finance Department at St Aidan's if you do not have a login. Further instalments will be due in February 2020 and April 2020 and reminder emails will be sent out to parents.

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to the Writing School on your behalf. I would be grateful therefore if you could discuss this opportunity with your son/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 the Associated Sixth Form. When accompanying students 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 students 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 student will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Once the deadline of Friday 27 September 2019 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands of the trip. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Head of Year and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and **deposits in this case will be refunded.**

Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip if, in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, there are concerns again about the pupil's participation on the trip, **the Head of the Associated Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the student's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator on 01423 818527.

Kind regards

S Pickford
St Aidan's English Department

✂

Creative Writing Week, Monday 29 June to Saturday 4 July 2020

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the above visit and I have paid a non-refundable deposit of £140.00 via ParentPay – I understand that this and any subsequent payment is non-refundable

Student's name Tutor Group

Signed Parent/Guardian Date

Please complete and return this slip to Mr Pickford in St Aidan's English Department.