



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2019

Dear Year 10 Parent / Guardian

## **Outward Bound Residential at Loch Eil – Saturday 21 March to Friday 27 March 2020**

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 some of Britain's finest and wildest scenery surround the centre, which is close to the foot of Ben Nevis.

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

### **DAY 1**

|                |                    |                  |                           |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b> | Travel to Loch Eil | <b>Afternoon</b> | Settle in. Night exercise |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|

### **DAY 2**

|                |                                  |                  |                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b> | Initiative & team building tasks | <b>Afternoon</b> | Climbing/abseiling     |
|                |                                  | <b>Evening</b>   | Multi-task competition |

### **DAY 3**

|                |                         |                  |       |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Morning</b> | High challenge activity | <b>Afternoon</b> | Kayak |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|

### **DAY 4**

|                |               |                  |                                          |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b> | Raft building | <b>Afternoon</b> | High challenge/team building initiatives |
|                |               | <b>Evening</b>   | Expedition preparation                   |

### **DAY 5**

|                |            |  |  |
|----------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>All day</b> | Expedition |  |  |
|----------------|------------|--|--|

### **DAY 6**

|                |                   |                  |                              |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b> | Expedition return | <b>Afternoon</b> | High challenge/zip wire      |
|                |                   | <b>Evening</b>   | Final dinner / Course review |

### **DAY 7**

|                |                      |  |  |
|----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Morning</b> | 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 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!

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Headteacher: Mr C Burt

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

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The cost of the course, including return travel by coach from St Aidan's to the Centre is dependent on numbers, however we anticipate the cost to be around £510.00-£530.00, 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 non-refundable deposit of £165.00 on ParentPay by Friday 25 October 2019\***. Further payments will be due by Friday 29 November 2019, Friday 31 January 2020 and Friday 28 February 2020 respectively (we will send out reminder emails with the confirmed price).

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, the cost and confirming that your child's medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

In the first instance, the Loch Eil Centre can accommodate **84 students** and places will be allocated via ParentPay on a **first come-first served basis**. Please note that your payment may still be processed if the course is full but in this case, we will refund your deposit and your child's name will go on the waiting list should a place become available. **\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TRIP MAY FILL BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT.**

## 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 Friday 25 October 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.

Once the deadline has passed, 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.

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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.

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

Kind regards

D Holdsworth  
Assistant Head and Outdoor Education Coordinator

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