



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

May 2021

Dear Year 7 Pupil and Parents

YEAR 8 OUTWARD BOUND WEEK – Monday 6 December to Friday 10 December 2021

After a very difficult year, we are hopeful that we may be able to start our program of educational visits again at St Aidan's with the Year 8 Outdoor Education Course in December 2021.

Due to the immense popularity of this course, this optional visit will take place at three different Outward Bound Centres - Ullswater and Howtown in the Lake District and Ogwen Cottages in Snowdonia enabling us to accommodate as many students as possible. All three centres 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.

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 visit.

The Course

The course we 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. Examples of the activities that the students will enjoy are 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.

Friends

Students will be able to express a preference in respect of the friends they wish to be with and where appropriate, we will endeavour to put them together in one of the three centres. The accommodation is comfortable, 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.

Cost

The cost of the trip, including coach travel from school to the centres, will be between **£340.00 and £370.00**, 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

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the equipment. Students will require very little spending money as everything is included. The three centres can accommodate **228 students** and we anticipate that the level of interest will be high for this trip.

ParentPay

To give parents time to discuss the visit with their child, ParentPay will open on **Monday 24 May 2021 at 12:00**.

If your son or daughter is interested in a place on this exciting residential trip, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£75.00** via ParentPay by Friday 11 June 2021. If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact Mrs Holey in the Finance Office on h.holey@staidans.co.uk.

Places will be allocated via ParentPay on a **first-come, first-served basis** by receipt of online payment and once the places have been filled, you will not be able to sign up for the trip or pay the deposit, **even if it is before the deadline of Friday 11 June 2021**. Please then email Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, (t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk) and she will create a waiting list based on the date and time of your email in case of any cancellations.

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

The final price will be confirmed in September 2021 and the two remaining instalment payments will be due by **Friday 24 September 2021** and by **Friday 29 October 2021**. Reminder emails will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to Outward Bound. However, if the trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, full refunds will be given (please see Covid-19 section below).

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Friday 11 June 2021 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 Outward Bound. **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.**

Behaviour

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 considering different routines and environments, which demand that pupils can show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. To

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participate in any trip, the school staff must be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

After the deadline date, 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.

Medical Information

For each trip we attend, Outward Bound sends us specific medical forms which parents/guardians and pupils will be required to complete. Once your child's place is confirmed on the trip, we will give your child a form for completion and this must be returned immediately to school as Outward Bound require the information **at least two months** prior to our arrival at the centres. Please note that St Aidan's School and the centres will keep the information confidential.

COVID-19

As you will be aware, St Aidan's takes the current Covid-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff is always paramount. After many discussions with Outward Bound, we are confident that they are continually monitoring Government guidance with regard to Covid-19. Outward Bound have adapted all their centres and their teaching to carry out their work in a safe and appropriate way and you can read further information [here](#).

Insurance and Covid-19 cancellation

In addition to our school insurance policy, we are also covered by Outward Bound's insurance policy. Over the last year, all tour operators have introduced new clauses to their booking conditions and you can be reassured that you will receive a full refund if we have to cancel the trip as a direct result of a further national lockdown or Government advice against residential stays.

Should you wish to know any further information about the trip or have concerns about making the deposit payment at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs McDonald or myself.

Kind regards

Mr Holdsworth
Assistant Head & Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education

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