



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

May 2023

Dear Year 9 Parent / Carer

Outward Bound Residential at Loch Eil – Saturday 16 March to Friday 22 March 2024

We are delighted to be able to offer our current Year 9 students the opportunity to join our annual Year 10 Outdoor Education course in March 2024 based at the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil, near Fort William, on the West Coast of Scotland. This **7-day residential** has always been 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 surrounds 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

Morning	Travel to Loch Eil	Afternoon	Settle in. Night exercise
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DAY 2

Morning	Initiative & team building tasks	Afternoon	Climbing/abseiling
		Evening	Multi-task competition

DAY 3

Morning	High challenge activity	Afternoon	Kayak
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DAY 4

Morning	Raft building	Afternoon	High challenge/team building initiatives
		Evening	Expedition preparation

DAY 5

All day	Expedition		
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DAY 6

Morning	Expedition return	Afternoon	High challenge/zip wire
		Evening	Final dinner / Course review

DAY 7

Morning	Depart for Harrogate		
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Outward Bound puts great emphasis on personal development and confidence building and the activities carried out encourage individual and group responsibility and we hope it will provide an opportunity for all students to excel and be challenged!

Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
Tel: 01423 885814 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk



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Cost

The cost of the trip is dependent on the number of students that attend; however, we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £640.00-£740.00 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.

ParentPay

If your child would like to secure a place, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£50.00** via ParentPay by **23:59 on Sunday 4 June 2023**.

The Loch Eil Centre can only accommodate 120 students. If the trip is oversubscribed, all names received by the deadline date and time will be randomly selected by a senior member of staff and you will only be informed if your child has not received a place. We will of course refund any deposits paid on this occasion. Your child will then be added to a waiting list.

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

Payment Schedule

Deposit payment	£50.00	Sunday 4 June 2023
2 nd payment	£150.00	Friday 21 July 2023
3 rd payment	£150.00	Friday 29 September 2023
4 th payment	£200.00	Friday 24 November 2023
5 th payment	£190.00 (approx.)	Friday 26 January 2024

Important Financial Information

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

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Sunday 4 June 2023, you will be required to **pay the cancellation charges imposed by Outward Bound if your child withdraws unless** together, we can find a replacement student. For that reason, it is important that you discuss the trip in detail with your child 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 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.

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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

Closer to the time of departure and once your child's place on the trip is confirmed, we will forward you a link from Outward Bound which will take you to an online enrolment and medical form. All parents/carers must complete this form. Once submitted the information will be sent directly to Outward Bound.

However, for us to care for your child correctly on the trip, any information that is disclosed to Outward Bound must be reflected on the medical records we hold at school. If your child's school record needs updating with any medication or illness, please contact the school nurses on medicalroom@staidans.co.uk. Thank you.

Mobile Phones

Please note that students can take phones for the journey to and from Loch Eil, however due to the lack of phone reception in the area, they will be collected in for safe keeping during the trip.

Insurance

In addition to our school insurance policy, we are also covered by Outward Bound's insurance policy should we need to make a claim. Please note however that our policy does not cover electronic items such as a mobile phone, iPad, iPod, or camera.

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 (t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk) or myself.

Kind regards

Mr Holdsworth
Assistant Head & Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education

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