

September 2023

Dear Student and Parent

Year 12 English Trip to Ty Newydd Writing Centre from Monday 8 July to Saturday 13 July 2024

Following the success of this year's residential trip to The National Writers' Centre for Wales in Ty Newydd in Criccieth, we are delighted to offer this trip again in July 2024 to any student who has an interest in attending.

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. 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 which will help them significantly with their studies. Students who have attended previous courses have benefitted from working together with established writers, producing work of a very high standard. This trip is particularly suitable for any student wishing to take an arts-based degree including English, drama and, of course, creative writing; however, anyone with an interest in writing is welcome to join the trip.

The trip is limited to 16 students across the Associated Sixth Form.

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 £525.00-£599.00 which is inclusive of the course at the National Writers' Centre, full board accommodation for 5 nights, the company of two creative writing tutors and a visiting guest reader during the week and return coach travel from St Aidan's with Atkinson Coaches.

St Aidan's ParentPay / How to Reserve a Place

To give parents time to discuss the Creative Writing trip with their child in conjunction with the other trip opportunities in the Associated Sixth Form, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open at 13:00 on Monday 2 October 2023 and close at 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023.

Please note the trip is **not** available on the St John Fisher's ParentPay. If you require an activation code for the St Aidan's ParentPay, please email parentpay@staidans.co.uk prior to Monday 2 October 2023. It is important to include your child's name in the email.

Following your discussions, if your child would like to apply for a place on the trip, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £150.00 **by Friday 6 October 2023**. Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing that your child can take part on the trip, the associated costs, and confirmation that the medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023, all students will have an equal chance of gaining a place.

If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator and parents will be advised on **Tuesday 10 October 2023** only if their child does not have a place. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage.

Instalment Payments

The final price of the trip will be confirmed in May 2024 when we have the final numbers of students attending and the associated costs of the trip. The payments are as follows:

Deposit payment	£150.00 by Friday 6 October 2023
2 nd payment	£150.00 by Friday 26 January 2024
3 rd payment	£150.00 by Friday 22 March 2024
Final payment	£149.00 approximately by Friday 31 May 2024.

Reminder emails will be sent to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Important Financial Information

Please note that payments made for this trip are non-refundable as we are bound by the booking conditions of our suppliers.

Whilst we offer instalment payments for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws after Friday 6 October 2023, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges unless a replacement student can be found. We therefore ask that you take the time to discuss this trip in detail with your child to make sure they are fully committed before you make any payment.

As financial pressures rise, we have been asked by some parents if they can support with the funding of trips for students who may not otherwise be able to afford to go. We do not currently have the means to facilitate this through ParentPay however, if you do wish to make a voluntary donation which will be put towards the cost of funding another student on the trip, please contact our Finance Manager via email at E.Amos@staidans.co.uk.

Behaviour

School residential trips form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and when accompanying students on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. Trips away from the normal school environment involve different routines and students must be able to demonstrate an increased level of responsibility and maturity.

Please note this trip operates a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol. We reserve the right to send home any student who we regard as having breached this rule which may require contacting parents to collect their child. The Headteacher would like to make clear that failure to observe this rule will potentially jeopardise a student's place in the Sixth Form.

Should you have any queries about the trip prior to paying the deposit or have concerns about making the deposit payment at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator (t.mcdonald@staidans.uk) or myself.

Regards

Mrs Antonia Parris
St Aidan's English Department