



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2023

Dear Parents / Carer

Year 7 Residential Trip to Castle Howard from Wednesday 15 May 2024 to Friday 17 May 2024

As a school, St Aidan's sees extra-curricular activities and residential trips as being of immense value and we would like all students to have the opportunity to take part in them.

During Year 7, we invite all pupils on a three-day/two-night residential to provide our students with the opportunity of developing their relationship further with their peers, developing their own personal qualities, and learning more about the ethos and origins of our school.

Following our successful trip in May this year, we are organising our adventure with a difference, taking students into the wild and experiencing back-to-nature activities that they will never forget.

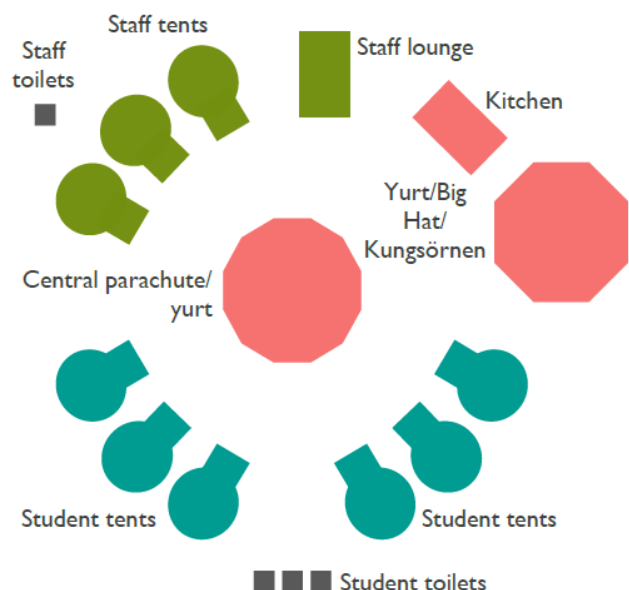
We will be staying in a 'Bushcraft Camp' in the grounds of Castle Howard. The Bushcraft Company is very experienced at running camps of this nature and their instructors have received extensive in-house training and nationally recognised qualifications for specialised activities. Our own staff will always be with the children.

We will leave school around 09:00 on Wednesday 15 May 2024 by coach, which will take all the children to their camp where they will be living in the wild, sleeping under canvas and cooking over open fires. We will return to school at approximately 16:00 on Friday 17 May 2024.

On arrival at Castle Howard, we will walk to camp and the students will be divided into 'tribes'. Each tribe will be accompanied by a St Aidan's member of staff who will encourage students to reflect on how they work together and will also explain how we expect St Aidan's students to conduct themselves on trips.

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 a tribe.

Students and staff will stay in single-sex safari style bells tents, which will sleep between 10-12 students and an example of the camp-layout is opposite.



Headteacher: Mrs S Dover



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Activities include:

- Shelter Building and Camp Craft
- Camouflage and Concealment Exercises
- Bushcraft Tournament
- Cutting Tools Workshop
- Leave No Trace Procedures
- Wilderness First Aid Workshop
- Wild Food Workshop
- Scenarios SOS
- Fire Workshop

Bushcraft Virtual Parent Talk

We have arranged a virtual meeting with the staff from the Bushcraft on Thursday 16 November 2023 at 18:00 to give parents and students more information about the trip and to answer any questions you or your child may have. We would be delighted if you can attend.

To join the meeting, please click on the link:

[Parents' Meeting - St Aidan's and The Bushcraft](#)

Meeting ID: 376 677 476 199, Passcode: ZX4Jg9, [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

As it may be necessary to download some software for the meeting, please allow some extra time when signing in (this software can be easily deleted once the session is completed).

When you have signed in, on the right hand side of your screen you will see a control panel with different logos. Each participant is on mute to avoid echoes or background noise.

You will be able to ask as many questions as you like throughout the presentation by clicking on the 'speech bubble with a question mark'. Once the presentation is finished, there will be time to ask any questions during a Q&A session.

ParentPay

Every child in Year 7 is invited and encouraged to attend this exciting residential trip. The cost will be between **£180.00** and **£199.00** which includes transport by coach, accommodation, food, and all activities.

To confirm your child's place, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£100.00** via ParentPay by Friday 24 November 2023. If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact parentpay@staidans.co.uk

The final price will be confirmed in February 2024 and the remaining instalment payment will be due by **Friday 1 March 2024**. A reminder email will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

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.

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Important Financial Information

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

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Friday 24 November 2023, cancellation charges are imposed on us by the Bushcraft Company. If your child withdraws from the trip, you will be refunded the money you have paid **minus** the current cancellation charges as per the

Bushcraft Company's terms and conditions. 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.

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.

Insurance

This trip is fully covered by our school insurance policy.

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.

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.

Parents' Meeting

We will hold a Parents' Meeting closer to departure and invite all parents and students to attend. A kit list will also be provided at the meeting. Please contact Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, on t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk if you need any further information regarding the trip or the Finance Office (e.amos@staidans.co.uk) if you have any difficulties with payment or need help with ParentPay.

Regards

Mr D Bean
Head of Year 7

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

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