



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

19th July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Year 7 Residential Trip to Ford Castle, Northumberland in October 2024

I am looking forward to welcoming your child to St Aidan's in September. As a school, we see 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.

At the beginning of Year 7, all students are invited and encouraged to attend a three-day/two-night residential trip to Northumberland. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know each other better, and to learn about the story of St Aidan and its many links to the school.

We will be staying at the residential centre Ford Castle, which is run by PGL.

- Forms F, L, O, U and R will leave the morning of **Monday 21st October 2024** and return around 16:30 on **Wednesday 23rd October 2024**
- Forms I, S, H, E and D will follow the same programme leaving St Aidan's on **Wednesday 23rd October 2024** and returning around 16:30 on **Friday 25th October 2024**.

On the first day of the trip after departing St Aidan's, we will travel to Holy Island and walk across the Causeway with a trained guide. After our packed lunch on Holy Island, we will then continue our coach journey to Ford Castle later in the afternoon.

For the next two days students will be split into groups to undertake a range of exciting outdoor activities led by centre staff. Each group will be accompanied by a St Aidan's member of staff who will encourage students to reflect on how they work together and who will also explain how we expect St Aidan's students to conduct themselves on trips.

Cost

The cost of the trip will be between £250.00-£280.00 which includes return transport by coach with York Pullman, full-board accommodation for two nights/three days and all activities including the guided walk across the Causeway. Please note that a packed lunch will be required for lunch on the first day of the trip.

ParentPay

To confirm your child's place, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£75.00** via ParentPay by Friday 9th August 2024. You should now have received an activation code for ParentPay from our Finance Office. If you have not received it, please email parentpay@staidans.co.uk as soon as possible.

A reminder email will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

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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.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to PGL on behalf of your child.

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after **Friday 13th September 2024**, cancellation charges are imposed on us by PGL. If your child withdraws from the trip, you will be refunded any money you have paid **minus** the current cancellation charges as per PGL's terms and conditions.

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 High School. Outdoor learning provides wonderful opportunities to build on essential skills that help children grow into confident, independent, and successful adults.

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. Please help us by reinforcing to your child our expectations on behaviour in order that every child can gain the maximum out of the trip.

Parents' Meeting

We will hold a Parents' Meeting closer to departure and invite all parents and students to attend. This will give you the opportunity to find out more information about the trip and ask questions to the staff. 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 if you have any difficulties with payment or need help with ParentPay the Finance Office (parentpay@staidans.co.uk).

Regards

Ms Emily Reynard
Head of Year 7

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover