

July 2025

Dear Parents / Carer

Year 7 Residential Trip to Ford Castle, Northumberland in October 2025

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 20 October 2024** and return around 16:30 on **Wednesday 22 October 2025**
- Forms I, S, H, E and D will follow the same programme leaving St Aidan's on **Wednesday 22 October 2025** and returning around 16:30 on **Friday 24 October 2025**.

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, 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.

Arborpay

To confirm your child's place, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of £50.00 via the Arbor app/Arborpay by **Thursday 31 July 2025**. Access to sign up is located under the trip section on the Arbor app. You should now have received an activation code for Arbor. If you have not received it, please email arbor@staidans.co.uk as soon as possible.

Please note that by making the initial deposit, 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.

Instalment Payments

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

Deposit payment	£50.00 by Thursday 31 st July 2025
2 nd payment	£100.00 by 31 August 2025
Final payment	£130.00 (approximately) by 30 th September 2025

Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each deadline date 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 **Thursday 31st July 2025**, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges imposed on us by PGL, unless together we can find a replacement student.

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.

Parent/Carer Meeting

We will hold a Parent/carers meeting closer to departure and invite all parents/carers 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 Goold, the Trips Administrator, on trips@staidans.co.uk if you need any further information regarding the trip or if you have any difficulties with payment or need help with Arborpay please email finance@staidans.co.uk.

Regards



Ms Emily Reynard
Head of Year 7