



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2022

Dear Parents / Carer

Year 7 Residential Trip to Castle Howard from Monday 15 May 2023 to Wednesday 17 May 2023

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 take all pupils on a three-day/two-night residential to provide our students with the opportunity of furthering developing their relationship 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.

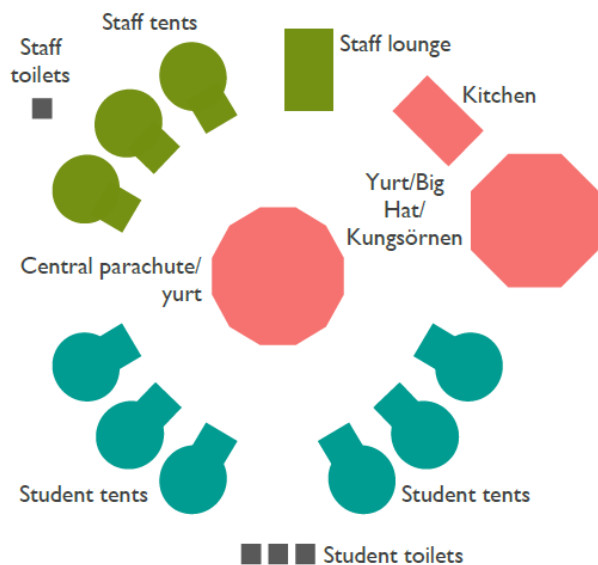
We will be staying in a 'Bushcraft Camp' in the grounds of Castle Howard. The Bushcraft Company is very experienced at running camps of this nature and their instructors have received extensive in-house training and nationally recognised qualifications for specialised activities. Our own staff will always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

We will leave school around 09:00 on Monday 15 May 2023 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 Wednesday 17 May 2023.

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.





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Activities include:

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

Bushcraft Virtual Parent Talk

We have arranged a virtual meeting with the staff from the Bushcraft on **Thursday 3 November 2022 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.

You can sign up in advance of the meeting by clicking [here](#); these details will be required when you log in on Thursday 3 November. 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 **£145.00** and **£175.00** which includes transport by coach, accommodation, food, and all activities.

To confirm your son/daughter's place, we would ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£80.00** via ParentPay by Friday 11 November 2022. If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact Mrs Holey in the Finance Office on h.holey@staidans.co.uk.

The final price will be confirmed in February 2023 and the remaining instalment payment will be due by **Friday 3 March 2023**. 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. However, if the trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, full refunds will be given (please see Covid-19 section below).

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Friday 11 November 2022, cancellation charges are imposed on us by the Bushcraft Company. If your child withdraws from the trip for any reason other than Covid-19, 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.

Insurance and Covid-19 cancellation

This trip is fully covered by our school insurance policy. Over the last two years, all tour operators have introduced new clauses to their booking conditions and you can be reassured that you will receive a full refund if we must cancel the trip as a direct result of Government advice against residential stays.

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.

We will hold a Parents' Meeting closer to departure and invite all parents and students to attend. A member of the Bushcraft Company will give a presentation and explain how the trip will run and there will be the opportunity for questions. 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 (h.holey@staidans.co.uk) if you have any difficulties with payment or need help with ParentPay.

Regards

Mr S Taylor
Head of Year 7

Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton

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