



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2022

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

Outward Bound Residential at Loch Eil – Saturday 25 March to Friday 31 March 2023

We are delighted to be able to offer our Year 10 students the opportunity to join our annual Year 10 Outdoor Education course based at the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil, near Fort William, on the West Coast of Scotland. This **7-day residential** has always been extremely popular and we regard this trip in school as one of the most challenging and rewarding activity courses.

Outward Bound is an outdoor activities provider of the highest calibre and they enjoy a first class reputation. Accommodation, equipment, and staff expertise are superb and some of Britain's finest and wildest scenery surrounds the centre which is close to the foot of Ben Nevis.

The typical Itinerary for the Loch Eil trip would include the following:

DAY 1

Morning	Travel to Loch Eil	Afternoon	Settle in. Night exercise
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DAY 2

Morning	Initiative & team building tasks	Afternoon	Climbing/abseiling
		Evening	Multi-task competition

DAY 3

Morning	High challenge activity	Afternoon	Kayak
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DAY 4

Morning	Raft building	Afternoon	High challenge/team building initiatives
		Evening	Expedition preparation

DAY 5

All day	Expedition		
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DAY 6

Morning	Expedition return	Afternoon	High challenge/zip wire
		Evening	Final dinner / Course review

DAY 7

Morning	Depart for Harrogate		
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Outward Bound puts great emphasis on personal development and confidence building and the activities carried out encourage individual and group responsibility. The course should appeal to anyone who has an interest in the outdoors, and we hope it will provide an opportunity for all students to excel and be challenged!

Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton



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ParentPay

The Loch Eil Centre can only accommodate **120 students**. To give parents a little time to discuss the visit with their child, ParentPay will open on **Thursday 20 October 2022 at 18:00**.

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 £600.00-£700.00. If your child is interested in a place, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £170.00 on ParentPay by **Friday 4 November 2022**.

Places on the trip will be allocated via ParentPay on a **first-come, first-served basis** by receipt of online payment. Once all the places have been filled, please note you will not be able to sign up for the trip or pay the deposit, **even if it is before the deadline of Friday 4 November 2022**. Please then email Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, (t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk) and she will create a waiting list based on the date and time of your email in case of any cancellations.

The three remaining instalment payments will be due by **Friday 2 December 2022, Friday 27 January 2023, and Friday 24 February 2023** and we will confirm the final price in February 2023 prior to the last instalment once we know the number of students attending. Reminder emails 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. If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact Mrs Holey in the Finance Office on h.holey@staidans.co.uk.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to Outward Bound. 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 4 November 2022, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your child withdraws**, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by Outward Bound. **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.**

Covid-19

As you will be aware, St Aidan's takes the current Covid-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff is always paramount. Outward Bound have adapted all their centres and their teaching to carry out their work in a safe and appropriate way and you can read further information [here](#).

Enrolment & Medical Information

The Outward Bound will send us specific medical forms which parents/guardians and pupils will need to complete. Once your child's place is confirmed on the trip, you will be emailed a form for completion which must be returned immediately to the Outward Bound Centre as they require these **at least one**

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month before our arrival at the Centre. Please note that St Aidan's School and the Centre will keep the information confidential.

Mobile Phones

Please note that students can take phones for the journey to and from Loch Eil, however due to the lack of phone reception in the area, they will be collected in for duration of the trip.

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.

Once the deposit deadline date has passed, 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.

Once accepted onto the trip, if we have any concerns about a pupil's participation on the trip in the time between gaining a place and the departure, **the Head of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and the cost of the trip may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McDonald or myself.

Kind regards

D Holdsworth
Assistant Head and Outdoor Education Coordinator

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