



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer / Year 10 students

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

I am pleased to confirm that the final price for the Loch Eil trip is £670.00 and the remaining balance of £150.00 is now due. Please make payment on ParentPay by **Tuesday 28 February 2023**. If you have already paid the estimated price of £700.00, you will automatically be refunded via ParentPay. Please note that all payments are non-refundable as the final balance has been paid to Outward Bound.

We are holding an online parents' meeting at **18:00 on 14 March 2023** and we would be grateful if you could all attend as we will be sharing important information. The meeting can be accessed in the same way as parents' evenings by using your child's school Teams account and clicking on the "Loch Eil 2023" Team.

We would like to take the opportunity to finalise travel arrangements and reiterate some important points.

- We shall travel to and from Scotland with York Pullman leaving St. Aidan's at **07:00 promptly on Saturday 25 March 2023**. Please arrive at **the main school car park no later than 06:50**. Our estimated return time to St. Aidan's on **Friday 31 March 2023** is approximately 16:30. If it becomes apparent during the journey that we will arrive later/earlier, a message will go on our website and social media.
- When packing your bags, prepare for a lengthy coach journey - probably about 7 hours. It would be advisable to take a small bag on to the coach with you containing your lunch and anything else that you may want on the journey. Please ensure that **any medication you may need, such as inhalers, are in your hand baggage and are not stored in your kit bag**, which will be placed in the lockers underneath the coaches. You will find a copy of the kit list at the end of this email.
- You are advised to take a substantial and sensible packed lunch together with plenty to drink with you on the outward journey. Outward Bound will provide us with a packed lunch for the return journey.
- Only a small amount of spending money will be necessary however, Outward Bound do ask for a **£10.00 kit deposit** from each student on arrival. This money is refundable following full kit return at the end of the week. We will stop at some service stations on the outward and return journeys. There are also drinks machines and a tuck shop in the centre. There may be a visit to the local town of Fort William at some point.
- As a special note of caution, we bring to your attention that several pupils taking part in the visit have a nut allergy and ask that both pupils and parents **do not pack any food items containing nuts of any kind or anything marked "made in a factory handling nuts" or "may contain nut traces"**. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

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Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR  
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- Please avoid taking valuable items. 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.
- Taking a camera would be nice, but please ensure that it is a relatively inexpensive one.
- During the trip you will be covered by our school's insurance cover that is arranged by the RPA. Please note however, that electrical items such as phones and cameras are NOT covered by the insurance.
- Outward Bound provides all 'specialist' equipment including boots, waterproofs, hats and gloves. The clothing that you should take should be warm, old and plenty of it! Jeans are of course not appropriate for activities.
- Our medical team will soon be sending out a medical questionnaire for you to complete and return; we would be grateful if you could please return the form by the date specified on the email.

The students will be accompanied by 4 members of staff from St Aidan's and they will be divided into 3 activity groups. All the Outward Bound staff are qualified for the activities that they will lead, and all are highly experienced. As we have said in earlier correspondence, Outward Bound is an outstanding provider of this type of course and they have a first-class safety record.

## Emergency Contact Numbers

- During school hours please ring the main school number, 01423 885814
- Out of school hours Mr Holdsworth on 0778 597 9914
- Outward Bound 01397 772866.

Please only ring these numbers in the event of an emergency as we will be busy looking after your child.

We would also like to say that the enormous success of this trip in previous years has been due, in large part, to the excellent behaviour of the pupils who have taken part. We need to be able to trust participants in various situations during outdoor activities. **If it becomes clear that we cannot trust some individual(s), there would be no point in them continuing to stay with the party and we would not hesitate to send them home.** We would be grateful if parents could reinforce this message with their child, supporting the very high expectations that we have for conduct and behaviour.

Should you have any further queries about this course, please do not hesitate to contact us or Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, on [t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk](mailto:t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk).

Kind regards

Mr Holdsworth  
Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education  
[d.holdsworth@staidans.co.uk](mailto:d.holdsworth@staidans.co.uk)

Mr Weare  
Trip Leader  
[d.weare@staidans.co.uk](mailto:d.weare@staidans.co.uk)



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## KIT LIST – LOCH EIL

### **Clothing Check List**

- Casual T-Shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Thermal Tops
- Jumpers
- Fleece Tops
- Thick and thin walking socks
- Synthetic trousers for walking (NOT jeans)
- Jeans (for around the centre only)
- 2 pairs of trainers
- Underwear
- Pyjamas
- Shorts
- Hats and gloves
- Towel and swimwear

All courses at Loch Eil involve getting wet at some point. Please make sure you have plenty of spare dry clothes to change into.

### **Useful Items**

- Notepad and pen
- Sun cream
- Blister Kit
- Camera
- Books and magazines

All specialist activity and safety equipment will be provided. You will need to bring personal clothing and footwear.

### **Money**

You will only need to bring a small amount of money. All centres have a shop, which sells confectionery, souvenirs, and some items of clothing. We advise approximately £15.00-£20.00 for the week plus the £10.00 refundable deposit for equipment.