

15 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Year 8 Personal Development Week, Aberdyfi

Trip code: 20-ZABER

Following today's remote presentation, which you can access [here](#), in January 2021 all Year 8 students will be taking part in an exciting week at the Outward Bound Centre at Aberdyfi on the west coast of Wales, for the weeks of **11 - 15 January (8A/8C/8H)** and **18 - 22 January (8M/8S/8W)**. We hope that all Year 8s will be able to take part.

During each week's programme, students will take part in activities designed to develop personal skills that cannot easily be learnt in the classroom. Your daughter will be working in a group of 10 - 12 girls under the guidance of one or more qualified instructors. Through a range of land- and water-based activities, students will be given opportunities to build self-awareness and confidence. They will be able to set themselves personal challenges, as well as develop mutual trust and support in their groups. Team building and problem-solving activities will encourage both self-reliance and the awareness of other people's needs.

The accommodation is purpose built, well equipped and comfortable. Students will need to bring comfortable, old clothes that can get muddy, but all appropriate specialist clothing and footwear such as waterproofs and boots will be provided. Outward Bound Centres comply with the highest possible safety standards for outdoor activities and activities are carefully structured so that they are suitable for all abilities. In response to our current situation, Outward Bound have introduced new safety measures to ensure the centre is COVID-safe. You can access and read through these measures [here](#).

The total cost is **£435** and includes **accommodation, meals, activities, insurance and travel**. If you would like your daughter to take part in the trip, please make the first payment of **£145** by **Friday 25 September** (you can pay the full sum at this stage if you wish).

You may prefer to pay the balance in instalments as shown below; payments are made using ParentMail. The final date for all payments is **Friday 20 November**. Payments made using ParentMail will give consent for the trip.

Instalment payment dates are:

£145	Week ending Friday 25 September
£145	Week ending Friday 23 October
£145	Week ending Friday 20 November

We would not want anyone to be unable to take part in this trip because of financial circumstances. Please complete the confidential on-line [form](#) accessed via the Parents' section of the website if you would like to apply for support.

In the unfortunate event that we have to cancel the trip as a result of COVID-19, all payments made will be fully refunded to parents. Parents will not be refunded if they decide to remove their daughter from the trip at a later date and the trip is still going

ahead. If a student is unable to attend due to illness, as authorised by a GP note, parents will be refunded.

Please email Mr Braniff, Head of Year 8, cbraniff@ahs.bucks.sch.uk or Mrs Queralt, Assistant Headteacher, hqueralt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk if you have other questions about the trip, including any medical or health questions that you might have. If any medical/contact details have changed, please email Mrs Nix snix@ahs.bucks.sch.uk with the revised information.

Our experience from the last twenty three years is that the week is both memorable and worthwhile for all participants. We are confident that next January's trips will be just as enjoyable and look forward to an exciting learning experience for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Giles Scoble
Headteacher