



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

19 July 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Activities Week 2024 – w/c 8 July 2024

I write to you at an early stage with regard to Activities Week 2024. Before the pandemic, we offered a range of residential visits to year groups. Now that this is firmly behind us, we would like to return to a similar model to this for next summer. Activities Week this year was a great success and we must also make sure that we retain the very best practice from this year and improve upon this.

The plan for Activities Week next year is year group based. We are not offering residential visits to all years, but we will adhere to following format for future years, too. This means that if your child is not offered a residential next year, they will have the opportunity the year after. These residential visits will not replace other visits we currently offer, such as the music / drama visit, Normandy, and the French and German exchanges. These will still be offered.

This letter is divided into sections for ease of reading. Please note that all year groups referred to are from September 2023, ie, if your child is currently in Year 8, you should read the section for Year 9. We would like as many children to attend the visits as possible – this is an opportunity for them to make memories with the rest of the year group – things they will look back in decades to come.

We accept that prices are currently rising and that there are significant issues with the cost of living. By advertising this far in advance, we hope this will assist with budgeting. We are also very fortunate to be supported by the Gilbert Hannam Education Foundation who offer bursaries (up to a limited amount) for parents / carers who may struggle with payments. These are reviewed, confidentially, on a case by case basis by trustees. Further information is available here: [GHEF Student Support Grant Fund Application.pdf \(mrc-academy.org\)](#). All students who do not attend a residential will participate in activities in school.

Year 7 2023/24

We will be offering a PGL trip to the Isle of Wight (Little Canada) for the new Year 7. The approximate cost of this visit is £300. We would like all Year 7 to attend this visit this year.

Year 8 2023/24

Year 8 students will remain on the school site during Activities Week next year. They are able to go on residential visits to Normandy or the music / drama visit at other points in the year. Students in Year 8 will go on day visits and trips from school next summer, as well as completing very different activities in school.

Years 9 2023/24

The following visits will be offered to Year 9 next year:

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1. Berlin: students will fly to the capital of Germany for three nights. This visit will be based on the history and culture of this fascinating city, which has changed so much since World War II and the fall of the Berlin Wall. The visit is likely to include: Checkpoint Charlie, TV Tower, visit the Reichstag, Holocaust museum, the Brandenburg Gate amongst many others. Approximate cost £750
2. Barcelona: students will fly to the famous Catalan city for three nights. The city is famous for the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi architecture, Spanish café culture and a day at the Portaventura theme / water park (it will be hot!). This visit will be based particularly on art and design. Approximate cost £800
3. CERN, Geneva: students will fly to Geneva to visit the CERN and the Large Hadron Collider. They will also visit a chocolate factory, the Philippe Patek watch museum and workshop, enjoy a boat trip on the lake, visit the science museum, tour the United Nations European headquarters and other activities around the city. This visit is heavily based on science. Approximate cost £550

Year 10 2023/24

Our current Year 10 students spent Activities Week on work experience. I have spoken with several students about this since they returned today and they all valued the opportunity highly. In some cases, it has confirmed potential career paths and in other cases the opposite is true. Some of our students have been offered paid weekend work as a result or apprenticeships post GCSE. Work experience is something I think we must retain for next year.

I am also aware that the current Year 9 have been particularly impacted by the pandemic and the lack of residential visits during their time with us. We are offering two residentials for current Year 9 next year, which will take place w/c 22 June 2024. The visits we are offering follow:

1. Ardeche: this is a water sports visit to the Ardeche in France. This visit is run through PGL and includes several activities on the river, including rafting, canoeing and many others. Students will camp at various places on the river and will travel between them – on the river. There are also days out and a trip to a local village. The visit lasts for 8 days in total. The approximate cost is £1200.
2. Bushywood: students will stay at Bushywood campsite in East Sussex and participate in a range of activities, including orienteering, abseiling, water rockets, archery and others. This is a 4 night visit and students will need their own camping equipment. The approximate cost is £300.

Other visits

In addition to the visits planned for year groups, there will also be visits linked to subjects. There is a music and drama tour planned for activities week next year as well as a French and German exchange earlier in the year. There is also a visit to Sicily (headed by Geography, but available to all) being planned for May half term.

Next steps

In order to aid our planning, it is essential that parents / carers provide feedback on which visit you would like your child to attend. This is a no obligation response at this stage. We will collect deposits of £100 per child in September – this may be higher for Ardeche and Barcelona.

Parents of new Year 7, 9 and 10 students, please complete the linked form by 1 September so that we can ascertain numbers at an early stage. <https://forms.office.com/e/FssvN9VmiH>

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards
Principal