



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

Lode Road, Bottisham
Cambridge CB25 9DL
Tel: 01223 811250
www.bottishamvc.org
enquiries@bottishamvc.org



CMD/bg

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Activities Week (8-12 July 2024)

Summary of Actions	Deadline
Discuss the three Activities Week options with your child and select which is best for them: in school, Normandy or Derbyshire	
Register interest in Derbyshire Activities trip by paying a deposit of £56.00 on Wisepay.	Friday 1 December 2023
Register interest in Normandy trip by paying a deposit of £100.00 on Wisepay	Friday 1 December 2023
Apply for financial assistance for either residential trip, if required.	Friday 24 November 2023
NB. If your child is applying for both the trips, then please state on WisePay which is their first preference. They will then be included in the random selection for that first preference trip, should it be oversubscribed.	

Activities week has been a popular feature of the school's calendar for over twenty years. Collapsing the timetable for a whole week allows students to learn in a range of different ways. This year we have arranged a programme to suit all interests and budgets, and there are three options.

Please discuss the options with your child and register their interest in either of the residential trip options by making an initial deposit payment on WisePay by **Friday 1 December 2023**. If you do not make a payment by this date, we will assume your child wishes to participate in the in-school activities.

Please note it may not be possible to switch between activities once a choice has been made.

Costs may vary slightly once numbers are known and an activity will run only if numbers are sufficient.

We regret that places on the residential trips are limited



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Option 1: In-school

Those students not going on either of the residential trips outlined below will be undertaking a series of enrichment activities. These will include a daytrip to Bushcraft Adventures in Thetford Forest and a cultural trip to Cambridge. We will be asking for a contribution to the cost of these activities in the region of **£49.00**. This will cover the cost of any materials (ingredients for cooking etc.), visits out and professional specialist led workshops during the week. More detail of what this will involve will be communicated to you nearer the time. Please note that if your child chooses this option, you do not need to make any payment at this time.

Option 2: Derbyshire Activities Residential (8-12 July 2024)

A group of approximately 45 students will have the opportunity to stay at Dovedale House in Ilam, Ashbourne for an activity packed week of fun and adventure. Activities will include rock climbing, abseiling, orienteering and a daytrip to Alton Towers.

We would ask for a contribution of **£326** towards the cost of this activity. This is a maximum figure and may be amended based on final student numbers. All payments should be made through your child's Wisepay account. If we have not received sufficient contributions by the closing date of **Friday 31 May 2024**, we reserve the right to cancel this trip.

- An initial non-refundable deposit of £56.00 is payable by Friday 1 December 2023
- A second non-refundable payment of £54.00 is payable by Monday 1 January 2024
- A third non-refundable payment of £54.00 will be payable by Thursday 1 February 2024
- A fourth non-refundable payment of £54.00 will be payable by Friday 1 March 2024
- A fifth non-refundable payment of £54.00 will be payable by Monday 1 April 2024
- The final payment of £54.00 is payable by Wednesday 1 May 2024

The closing date for replies and initial deposit (via WisePay) is Friday 1 December 2023.

Option 3: Normandy residential (8-12 July 2024)

A group of approximately 50 students will be travelling by coach and ferry to France, where they will be staying at the "Hotel de Normandie" in Saint-Aubin-Sur-Mer in Normandy. There will be a number of visits to key sites, including the D-Day landing beaches, the American Cemetery, the Arromanches 360 Museum and the Bayeux Tapestry Museum. Students will experience the culture of France whilst also exploring the historical significance of Normandy.

We are running the trip in conjunction with Rayburn, an experienced and expert tour company, who are tailoring the trip to our requirements. We have run previous trips with Rayburn and are confident in their ability to provide a high-quality tour to our students. To find out more about them, you can click here <https://www.rayburntours.com/>

Option 3: We would ask for a contribution of **£555.00** towards the cost of this activity. This is an approximate figure and may be amended based on final student numbers. All payments



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should be made through your child's WisePay account. If we have not received sufficient contributions by the closing date of Thursday 1 June 2023, we reserve the right to cancel this trip.

- An initial non-refundable deposit of £100.00 is payable by Friday 1 December 2023
- A second non-refundable payment of £91.00 will be payable by Monday 1 January 2024
- A third non-refundable payment of £91.00 will be payable by Thursday 1 February 2024
- A fourth non-refundable payment of £91.00 will be payable by Friday 1 March 2024
- A fifth non-refundable payment of £91.00 will be payable by Monday 1 April 2024
- The final payment of £91.00 is payable by Wednesday 1 May 2024

Please note students participating in this trip will need to have their own valid passport and health card (EHIC) at the time of departure. The passport will need to have 6 months validity remaining on it (i.e. must not expire before January 2025). If your child has a non-UK passport, they may also need a visa for this trip which you are responsible for providing. The school will not be liable, and no refund will be made, if your child is unable to travel because they do not have a valid passport or visa (if required) on departure.

Please also confirm your child's details as they appear on their passport by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/yn2UkF60KV>

The passport must be valid for travel on the dates outlined in this letter. If they do not currently have a passport, or the one they have has expired, please complete the details of the name only, as it will be on the new passport. We will be unable to consider your child's application for a place if the passport details have not been completed. Please note that once these details are submitted to the airline any amendments to those details will incur charges which we would have to pass on to the individual.

The closing date for replies and initial deposit (via WisePay) is Friday 1 December 2023.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and/or pupil premium entitlements, you may be entitled to some financial assistance towards the cost of these residential trips. Please do not hesitate to contact us at trips@bottishamvc.org in writing in the first instance, by Friday 24 November 2023 to ascertain what support is available. Please note it is important that you request the financial assistance by this due date as it may not be available at a later date.

We regret that places on the residential trips are limited. Should the trips be over-subscribed, we shall have a random selection, in accordance with our Trips Policy, to allocate places. This will take place after the closing date and you will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible. If your child's name is not drawn, your payment will be refunded to you and we shall add his/her name to the reserve list.



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If there is more than one child on the reserve list, those names will be ranked randomly in accordance with our Trips Policy. You will be notified, in accordance with the rank order, if a place becomes available. For those who have successfully gained a place on the trip full information will be given.

If your child's name is drawn and the choice is then made to withdraw them from the activity, a refund is not normally given unless the space can be filled in sufficient time and there are no additional costs to the school.

For the residential trips, all deposits and interim payments must be paid as indicated in the letter (please note amounts and due dates).

Students will not be permitted to use mobile phones or other internet enabled devices on any of the residential trips without the permission of the staff supervising.

Where payment dates are not met, the student will be deemed to have withdrawn from the activity and the school will reserve the right to deduct any expenses incurred before making a refund.

For students staying in school during activities week the enhancement activities rely on voluntary contributions towards the cost in order to go ahead. More detail of what these activities will involve will be communicated to you nearer the time.

If the behaviour of a student becomes a cause for concern at any stage prior to the commencement of a visit or activity, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the event and refund any payments received.

We look forward to another successful and enjoyable Activities Week with this year's cohort of Year 8 students.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Blewitt
Head of Learning Year 8