



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

Lode Road, Bottisham

Cambridge CB259DL

Tel: 01223 811250

www.bottishamvc.org

enquiries@bottishamvc.org



PK/bg

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Activities Week (12 - 16 July 2027)

Summary of Actions	Deadline
Discuss the Activities Week options with your child and select which is best for them: in school, Normandy or Derbyshire	2 October 2026
If you want them to go to either Normandy or Derbyshire, pay a deposit on Wisepay for your first option preference	12 October 2026
Apply for financial assistance if required.	10 October 2026

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 year 8 programme to suit all interests and budgets. There are 3 options, which have been presented below in tabular form to make comparison easier. Please discuss the options with your child, deciding which is best for them.

- If you wish to go to either Derbyshire or Normandy, then please register your interest by making an initial deposit payment on WisePay by **12 October 2026**
- If your child does not go to Derbyshire or Normandy, then they will take part in the in-school activity programme, for which there is a voluntary contribution which will be asked for at a later date.

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.

*Please note, students participating in the **Normandy trip** will need to have their own valid passport and Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) at the time of departure. The passport will need to have 6 months validity remaining on it (i.e. must not expire before January 2028). 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.*



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Option 1: Normandy Residential Trip	Option 2: Derbyshire Residential Trip	Option 3: In school programme
A group of approximately 50 students will be travelling by coach and ferry to France, where they will be staying at The Gite de Bellevue in St Fraimbault There will be a number of visits to key sites, including the D-Day landing beaches, The Caen Memorial Museum, Arromanches 360 cinema and The Airborne Museum of Sainte-Mère-Église, British Normandy Memorial. Students will experience the culture of France through a biscuit making workshop and visiting a market, whilst also exploring the historical significance of Normandy. We are running the trip in conjunction with Rayburn. To find out more about them, you can click here:	A group of approximately 45 students will have the opportunity to stay at Ravenstor Hostel, Buxton for an activity packed week of fun and adventure. YHA staff will lead two days of outdoor and adventurous activities ranging from abseiling, archery, bushcraft, rock climbing, canoeing, caving, gorge walking, raft building, weaselling. On one day the group will visit Alton Towers.	A series of enrichment activities fostering collaboration and problem solving. These will include two daytrips (both trips are within school hours).
Total cost: £664.00 Divided into payment plan of three more instalments with deadline dates to follow	Total cost: £511.00 Divided into payment plan of three more Instalments with deadline dates to follow.	This will cost approximately £50.00 people will be asked to make this contribution later in the year.
Initial Non-Refundable Deposit of £100.00	Initial Non-Refundable Deposit of £90.00	

For the residential trips, the closing date for replies and initial deposit (via WisePay) is. Deposits will be returned if your child cannot go on the trip for reasons of oversubscription (see below)

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) if you wish to find out what financial assistance is available. Please do so by **30 September**.



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We regret that places on residential trips are limited. Should the trips be oversubscribed, 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 their name to the reserve list.

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).

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.

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.

For students staying in school during activities week the enrichment activities rely on voluntary contributions towards the cost 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 P Knox
Head of Learning, Year 8