



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment visits are an important and memorable part of education. They enhance learning, enable students to grow in self-confidence and independence and allow them the chance to show leadership and team work skills. At Ilkley Grammar School we aim to provide our students with a variety of experiences throughout their time with us.

In light of this, the school's fifth **Challenge and Celebration Week** will take place between **Monday July 16th and Friday July 20th 2018**. All students will be off timetable during this week following a programme of either school based, off site or residential activities bespoke to their year group. Activities build on each other from year to year, allowing students to experience a range of opportunities throughout their school life.

- Year 7 - Option 1 - The Big Mix (Local day trips)
- Year 8 - Option 1 - The Big Trip (London)
- Year 9 - Option 1 - The Big Outdoors (Lake District)
- KS3 - Option 2 – The Big Local Experience (Wharfe & Aire Valley)
- Year 10 – Work Experience

It is hoped that tutors will accompany their forms as much as possible throughout this time, enabling them to further deepen the bond they have with their tutees. Student leadership opportunities are embedded within the programme. The role of older students in supporting the successful running of the week is crucial and Year 12 students are very much expected to be fully involved in the week in a number of ways of their choosing.

Today your son/daughter attended a launch assembly outlining the character of the programme. Students in Key Stage 3 will have a choice of one of two options. Students in post 16 have a wider range of opportunities.

For Year 9:

Option 1: The Big Outdoors

Students will participate in a 4 day 'activities residential' in the Lake District. They will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of individual and team based challenges on both land and water. All activities will be led by the staff of Brathay Hall, a nationally renowned centre for the training of young people in outdoor education. While some activities will take place in the forested grounds of the centre, others will be on the surrounding higher terrain or Lake Windermere, on the shores of which Brathay Hall is located. Activities include canoeing, rowing, high-wire ropes, raft building, orienteering, mountain walking, gorge scrambling, high and low level forest challenges and team problem-solving. A range of other less strenuous and more sociable activities is also planned for some evenings. Depending on their band, students will be accommodated at either Brathay Hall or the nearby Ambleside Youth Hostel. Provisionally departs 9:00am on the Monday and returns around 3:30-4pm on the Thursday.

Option 2

Students will participate in a carousel of 4 day-based activities. All departing and returning within the normal school day.

Day 1: The Craven Challenge – get hands on with practical tasks hosted by Craven College, Skipton

Day 2: Be creative in the project-day run by the Art Department

Day 3: A day of activities based challenges at Nell Bank in the Wharfe Valley

Day 4: Walk the Wharfe – enjoy some of the finest scenery in the country walking the Dales Way footpath.

Headteacher Helen Williams

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The total cost of Option 1 is £295; this is inclusive of all transport, activities and insurance. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium are eligible for a 50% discount. The total cost of Option 2 is £25 and free for those students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Key Stage 3-5 Payment details:

As a school we are very aware of the additional cost of school trips. As a result we have devised a payment system that we hope will spread the cost over a period of time in line with the payment deadlines the school itself has to meet with the organisations and companies that will be involved in the week. It is vital that parents do meet the payment deadlines outlined below as failure to do so may well result in both the loss of non-refundable deposits and the place a student may have on a trip. Having said this, **if you do have any issues with the payment dates please speak to Measha Harris (Head of Year 9) who will pass the issue to the Finance Department as appropriate.**

In addition to the use of Pupil Premium to subsidise the cost of these opportunities for some, the school is delighted to announce that the Ilkley Grammar School PTA is kindly continuing the school travel bursary to further widen student participation and access. **Please log onto the school website should you wish to find out more about this form of financial support. Please note the closing date for the first round of applications is 9th October.**

http://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/parents/pta_enrichment_bursary/

Finally, it needs to be reiterated that Challenge and Celebration Week is very much linked to the school's Personal Best rewards and sanctions policy. Students who have been in isolation three or more days over the academic year, or who have been excluded, may not be eligible to participate in the week and will need to attend an alternative programme of activities during this time. Please note that, with regret, the school also may not be able to fully refund all payments made for students that have been barred from C&C week or have withdrawn from activities for reasons other than those supported by a doctor's note.

	Deposit 1 18/10/2017	Final payment 23/02/2018	Total Cost
Year 9 Option 1: The Big Outdoors	£100 (PPI £67.50)	£195 (PPI £80)	£295 (PPI £147.50)
Year 9 Option 2: Day Carousel	N/A	£25 (PPI free)	£25 (PPI free)

Please note the cost of the trip at this time is an approximate figure and may vary, if this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Next steps:

I would be most grateful if parents of students could complete the reply form attached to this letter and get your son/daughter to return it to their form tutor no later than **Monday 9th October**. In addition to this, it is also vital that a non-refundable deposit is uploaded to ParentPay no later than **Wednesday 18th October if you wish to participate in any of the Option 1 activities**. It is with regret that failure to do this will result in your son/daughter not being able to gain a place on an Option 1 activity and being placed on Option 2.

If you have any other questions about the week please phone or e mail Measha Harris or contact myself for general questions about the whole programme.

I hope your son/daughter will look forward to participating in these exciting opportunities.



Yours sincerely,
Mark Rignall, Senior Assistant Headteacher

A printed version has been given to your son/daughter in form time today.

Please return this reply slip to your form tutor by Monday 9th October 2017

Student:

Form:

*Please tick **ONE** of the following option boxes below.*

Year 9

I would like my son/daughter to participate in the Year 9 Big Outdoors – The Lake District (Option 1) and agree to upload a non-refundable deposit of **£100** to Parent Pay by **Wednesday 18th October 2017**

I would like my son/daughter to participate in the 4 day activity carousel (Option 2) and agree to upload **£25** to Parent Pay by **Friday 23rd February 2018 (PPI no payment required)**

Parent/Carer Signature:

Date: