



9th July 2018

Dear Parents

The Year 6 residential next year will take place at Grosvenor House (run by Kingswood) in Ashford between **Monday 24th and Friday 28th June 2019**.

Outlined below is information that you may find useful when deciding whether you would like your child to be part of the Year 6 residential next year. There will be a meeting for parents about a month before the visit, when the following information will be explained in more detail. However, if you have any additional questions please contact Miss Dean. Please consider carefully if you would like your child to attend, as unlike Swattenden, we are unable to make changes to our numbers after October and the deposit is non-refundable. If for any circumstance your child is no longer able to attend (e.g. for medical reasons) and an insurance claim is needed, please note that any money will only be refunded once a successful insurance claim has been processed.

Aims of the Visit

To provide pupils with additional 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activities', which are part of the PE curriculum

To develop the children's independence

To provide opportunities for children to gain confidence through participation in varied activities

Possible activities

These cannot be confirmed until approximately a month before the visit, although we provide the centre with a list of activities that we would like our children to do. The staff at the centre create our timetable of activities depending upon the availability of resources and instructors.

The days will be filled with outdoor and adventurous activities, eg abseiling, challenge course, giant swing, climbing wall, team initiatives. Although some of these activities are similar to those at Swattenden, they all offer more challenge and the pupils will be encouraged to take part to the best of their ability. All the activities are run by fully qualified staff and the pupils will wear harnesses and hard hats for all the necessary activities.

Cost of the visit

Grosvenor House is owned and run by Kingswood, a well-established company which runs residential centres across Britain and France. There are a greater number of 'adventurous' activities and, therefore, a greater number of qualified Kingswood staff are needed to run the activities. This is reflected in the cost of the visit. The Academy staff have a pastoral role during the day, accompanying the groups to all meals and activities.

The money you pay is for your child's accommodation, bedding, food, activities (run by fully qualified instructors) and transport during the week. It is likely to cost approximately £415. This amount will be confirmed in September when details of payment will be sent to you.

Your child may want to take a small amount of pocket money for the trip – this will be around £5.

Care of your child

Kingswood is a founding member of the British Activity Providers Association and was awarded the Best Residential Experience at the School Travel Awards in 2016. The centre accommodation, activities and staff all adhere to the relevant health and safety standards. During the adventurous activities there will always be at least one Academy adult and one member of the centre staff with the group of children. One Academy adult will hold responsibility for children's medical needs during the visit.

Accommodation

The pupils sleep in rooms of between two and eight which contain bunk beds. Each corridor is secured with a code needed to enter.

There will be other children staying on site during the visit. It is likely that a school will be sharing the accommodation block, however, they will not have access to your child's room. Our staff will be sleeping in rooms adjacent to the pupils.

All the meals are cooked on site. The menu provides the children with a balanced diet which ensures they have the energy to take part in the activities. There is a choice of food at each meal including a salad bar for lunch and dinner. The catering staff are able to cater for medical dietary needs.

What if I decide for my child not to go?

The majority of children do join the visit – we have had between 2 and 11 children decide not to go in the past. Depending upon the number of children who do not join the visit, their days will be timetabled accordingly. It is likely they will be involved in making props and scenery for the Y6 production as well as spending time with other classes.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Dean
Educational Visits Coordinator

