



March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Activity Days – 17 and 18 July 2023

The last week of term, commencing 17 July 2023, includes two activity days, one of which is visiting Willen Lake, which we were unable to undertake last year.

Monday 17 July – Trip to Willen Lake, Milton Keynes

Willen Lake is set amongst 100 acres of parkland and offers a host of water and land-based activities. Students will have a variety of options to choose from such as; High Ropes, Raft Building, Kneeboarding, SUP, Mega SUP, Katananu, Kayaking and Canoeing. All the sessions are run by qualified instructors.

Tuesday 18 July – Team Building Activity Day - delivered by Wise Up

Working in teams the year group will solve mental and physical challenges to help build their social, communication and team building skills. It is a very uplifting day that introduces an element of competition to a fun and inclusive event.

Please note that each student will be allocated three activities at Willen Lake from the list above. Each activity will be organised and supervised by the staff at the centre, all of whom are very experienced and qualified in the relevant activity. Students do not need to be able to swim to take part in most of the water-based activities and all participants will wear buoyancy aids at all times. Those taking part in Kneeboarding must be able to swim 50 metres unaided. If your child cannot swim, please make a note of this in the note section on ParentPay.

More information can be found on the Willen Lake website: <https://www.willenlake.org.uk/>

We will be traveling to Milton Keynes by coach, leaving school promptly at 8.20am (registration will be at 8.00am) and returning at approximately 5.00pm. Students will need to wear comfortable, loose clothing and trainers; jeans are not suitable. Please note that students may get wet so we advise that they bring a change of clothing. There will be no opportunities to purchase food/drink so a packed lunch and a water bottle will be needed.

On Tuesday there will be a range of 32 activities and we hope that each team of students will be able to complete between 16-22 of these activities on the day. The activities will focus on developing team building and problem solving skills and will be delivered mostly outdoors on the school grounds.

The total cost for these activities will be £74.00. This includes travel, insurance, activities at Willen Lake and Wise Up team building.

Payment may be made by ParentPay (our preferred option), by Friday 19 May at the latest. Payment may be made in two installments if preferred. Payments are non-refundable.

Deposit payment of £37.00 by Friday 20 April
Second payment of £37.00 by Friday 19 May

A full risk assessment has been undertaken for the above activities and appropriate control measures are in place.

I appreciate that the cost of these activity days creates an additional expense for families, particularly to those parents/carers with multiple children at the school, however I have arranged these activities because they offer fantastic experiences for the students which will:

- Increase confidence
- Identify leadership potential
- Allow students to interact with the natural environment
- Accelerate new friendships

Please note that the school's policy is that trips and other activities outside the normal teaching programme should be self-funding. Contributions are voluntary but if these are insufficient the trip/activities may have to be cancelled. In cases of genuine hardship, please contact Mrs Wilson in the Finance Office in confidence as soon as possible and by Friday 21 April at the latest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mrs S Gee', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Gee
Head of Year 8