



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Activity Days – 17 and 18 July 2024

The last week of term, commencing 15 July 2024, includes two activity days.

Wednesday 17 July – Inflatable Challenges in school

Working in teams, the year group will take part in different activities that involve various inflatable 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. The sessions will be delivered outdoors.

Thursday 18 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, Katakana, Kayaking and Canoeing. All the sessions are run by qualified instructors.

Please note that each student will be allocated three activities at Willen Lake. 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 50 metres unaided, 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 9.00am (registration will be at 8.25am) and returning at approximately 5.30pm. **Students will need to wear comfortable, loose clothing and trainers; jeans are not suitable. Sunscreen and a hat are also recommended as students will be outdoors for the duration of the activities. 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 required.**

The total cost for these activities will be £66.00 per student. This includes travel, insurance, activities at Willen Lake and team building activities.


Payment should be made by ParentPay by Friday 12 April at the latest. 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 22 March at the latest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I Gurney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr I Gurney
Head of Year 9