



February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Activity Days – 16 and 17 July 2025

The last week of term, commencing **14 July 2025**, includes two activity days:

Wednesday 16 July – Inflatable Challenges and activities in School

The year group will work in teams to take part in various activities, including one of the UK's largest inflatable assault courses. They will also take part in a range of sports and activities designed to build social, communication, and team-building skills. This is a very uplifting day that combines fun and inclusivity with an element of friendly competition. The sessions will be held outdoors. Students should arrive at school for registration at 8.35am in appropriate sportswear.

Thursday 17 July – Trip to Willen Lake, Milton Keynes

Willen Lake, set amongst 100 acres of parkland, offers a range of water- and land-based activities. Students will have the opportunity to participate in three activities, such as:

- High Ropes
- Raft Building
- Kneeboarding
- SUP (Stand-Up Paddleboarding)
- Mega SUP
- Katanu
- Kayaking
- Canoeing

All sessions are run by **qualified instructors**, and students will be allocated three activities. Each activity will be supervised by experienced and qualified staff from the centre.

Students do not need to be able to swim for most water-based activities as all participants will wear buoyancy aids at all times. However, those participating in Kneeboarding must be able to swim **50 metres unaided**. If your child cannot swim 50 metres, please note this in the **notes section on ParentPay**.

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

We will travel to Milton Keynes by **coach**, leaving school promptly at **9.00am** (registration will be at **8.25am**) and returning at approximately **5.30pm**. Students should wear **comfortable, loose clothing and trainers**; jeans are not suitable. Sunscreen and a hat are recommended, as students will be outdoors for the entire day

Please note:

- Students may get wet, so we advise bringing a **change of clothing**.
- There will be no opportunities to purchase food or drinks, so students must bring a **packed lunch** and a **water bottle**.

Costs and Payment Information

The total cost for these activities is **£79.50 per student**, which includes travel, insurance, activities at Willen Lake, and the team-building activities. Payment should be made via **ParentPay** by **Wednesday 30 April 2025** at the latest.

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

Additional Information

I understand that the cost of these activity days may create additional expenses for families, particularly those with multiple children at Ashlyns. However, these activities have been organised as they provide students with:

- Increased confidence
- Opportunities to identify leadership potential
- Interaction with the natural environment
- Accelerated new friendships

The school's policy is that trips and activities outside the normal teaching programme must be **self-funding**. Contributions are voluntary, but if insufficient contributions are made, the trip or activities may need to be cancelled.

In cases of genuine hardship, please contact **Ms Stringer in the Finance Office** in confidence by **Friday 28 February** at the latest.

Yours sincerely



Mr C McDonald
Head of Year 9