



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

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Registered Charity No: 529051

July 2011

Dear Parents,

YEAR 9 RESIDENTIAL COURSE 28th MAY – 1st JUNE, 2012

It is a long established tradition in the school that all girls in Year 9 should attend a residential course in the summer term after the completion of their end-of-year examinations, usually the week directly before or after the summer half-term holiday.

Past experience has convinced us of the great benefits of this week, particularly at this stage of the girls' school career, before embarking on GCSEs. A great deal of effort is put into providing a varied and interesting programme which, we feel, is not only educational, but also fun. **The expectation, therefore, is that all girls will attend**, unless there is a particular reason for withdrawal.

We do understand the conflicting demands on the family purse and are anxious that finance should not be one of these reasons. There are several possibilities for financial help and further information can be obtained from the main school office. You are urged to take advantage of these.

There will be a parents' meeting to give more information about the residential nearer the time but if you have any immediate concerns about the residential (particularly financial), please contact the school as soon as possible.

Girls will be able to choose between a number of venues, depending on their programme preference. An outline of the various options is given overleaf. However, only three of the four centres will be used, depending on demand. Whichever course is chosen, there will be a record card to incorporate into their ROA folder.

The European option can only run if there is sufficient interest: **places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis**. If you wish your daughter to go on this trip then please pay a **deposit of £20 via ParentPay by 12th July**. (Should the trip not run this deposit will, of course, be transferred to whichever of the other centres your daughter attends instead.) Only when places on this trip have been allocated will decisions be made about the other centres. If your daughter is not interested in the European trip, please do not pay any deposits until after 12th July.

The total cost of the residential depends on the option chosen: the UK trips are likely to be around £320; the European option should be no more than £420. In each case, this covers everything: food, accommodation, travel, activities etc. The trip needs to be paid for via ParentPay. Payment can, of course, be made in instalments of any amount at any time, providing the following conditions are met: deposits totalling £100 must be made by 30th September 2011; a further £100 must be paid by 31st January 2012; the balance can be paid at any time but must have been paid in full by 30th April 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Dr R Perrins

Y9 Residential Visit Co-ordinator

European option

The History department would like to offer Year 9 pupils the opportunity to visit the First World War battlefields in Northern France/Belgium next summer. This trip serves an interesting extension to classwork but is also an incredibly powerful and moving experience in itself. We have run a number of similar residential courses in the past through Anglia Tours, a thoroughly reliable company which provides real value for money and the services of an expert tour guide throughout the week. The itinerary is likely to feature a full day trip to the battlefields of the Somme and visits centred around the Belgian city of Ypres, including the preserved trenches at Bayernwald, the interactive 'In Flanders Field Museum' and Tyne Cot, the largest of the cemeteries looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Girls will have the opportunity to participate in the short remembrance service which takes place each evening at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres. Whilst this option is aimed at those genuinely interested in history, we also hope to include a few more light-hearted activities, including several meals out and a day of sightseeing and shopping in the beautiful historic city of Bruges, sometimes referred to as the 'Venice of the North'.

Edale (Derbyshire) and Llangollen (North Wales)

The Edale trip is based at a Youth Hostel Activity Centre; Llangollen is at the Tyn Dwr Outdoor Centre, a former Youth Hostel now owned by the University of Lancashire. Each involves a full programme of activities, providing an introduction to a variety of outdoor activities. Possibilities include: canoeing, climbing, mountain biking, gorge walking and sailing. All specialist equipment and instruction will be provided and no previous experience will be required (except for cycling). All girls take part in 3 activity sessions per day and each will have the opportunity to try all of the activities on offer.

Hartington (Derbyshire)

The trip is based at the Youth Hostel and the programme followed is designed to introduce the girls to an understanding of the geographical, historical and leisure aspects of their environment. There will be a number of visits to places of historical or geographical interest along with several sessions of outdoor activities (examples include abseiling, scrambling, sailing).