

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2018

Oldmachar Academy believes that a residential school trip or home-based activity forms a valuable part of a pupil's overall educational experience. Such trips provide opportunities to develop new skills, develop independence, build teamwork skills, to make new friends, to improve their social and interpersonal skills, work with teachers in a more relaxed atmosphere and experience a new environment and culture.

From **Monday 14th to Friday 18th May 2018** all S1 – S3 pupils are being offered the opportunity to participate in an activity(s) either local, within the UK or abroad. S3 pupils also have the opportunity to opt into a 5 day work experience placement.

This is a compulsory part of the school calendar and pupils are expected to choose one option either school based/local trips/work experience (S3) or residential. Pupils who choose not to opt into some aspect of the programme will remain in school on the reduced curricular timetable. S3 pupils will be expected to undertake a work experience placement. Should you need to withdraw your son/daughter you should make contact with their Principal Teacher Pupil Support to discuss your concerns. Family holidays are marked as unauthorised absence.

Partial financial assistance may be available. Please contact the school office or Principal Teacher Pupil Support (Guidance) for further information.

This booklet provides general information on each of the residential and home based activities on offer and gives brief details about the destination, means of transport, accommodation and group leader if appropriate. The costs given are approximate as the final cost often depends on the exact number of pupils participating. Also, it is quite possible, for example, that fuel surcharges may be imposed by coach operators and travel companies. The first deposit for each residential trip is **non-refundable**.

We would like to remind pupils that we regard it as a privilege for them to participate in exciting and interesting activities like these. We see it as a reward for their commitment and enthusiasm in school. However pupils whose behaviour regularly falls below school expectations will be withdrawn from their activity. **If pupils withdraw, or are withdrawn by the school, from trips they will lose their deposit and any additional monies paid.**

Unfortunately, there is no system for allocating pupils to residential trips which is considered fair to all involved. We cannot avoid disappointment to some pupils but will do our best to allocate as many pupils as possible to their first choice of residential trip. With regret, we will be unable to give reasons as to why pupils have not been given a place on their residential trip of choice. Please also remember that should any activity be greatly under-subscribed we may be forced to cancel that activity. **Pupils who wish to choose the same activity as in 2017 should be aware that they will only be given a space if that activity is undersubscribed.**

Residential Activities

Pupils can select one or more activities if they are interested in more than one activity. Please note - If you choose more than one activity and are given one of your choices **you must accept it**. If you withdraw you will be unable to select another residential trip. **Only select the trips you definitely want to attend.**

Pupils should select their choice (residential choices, Home based programme or work experience if appropriate) and return their completed choices via [Activities Week Form](#) no later than midnight on Thursday 5th October. Any late applications will only be considered after all "on time" forms are dealt with. **There is no first come-first served.** All forms received by the due date will be treated equally. The activities committee will then allocate pupils to trips. Consideration has to be made to a balance of S1, S2 and S3 as well as the male/female divide and the combination of rooms offered to us. Once this allocation has been made, late forms will then be considered. Any pupil who is unsuccessful in getting a place on the residential trip of choice will be informed and given an opportunity to select another trip **from what is still available.**

Please be aware that initial deposits for the residential trips will be required as soon as you have been allocated to a trip (week beginning 9th October). For all residential trips the initial deposit is £150.

We are aware that pupils like to take part in these activities with their friends. If you wish to be with a particular person or persons then you must state full names of friends of your pair/group we will allocate you as a pair or group. A maximum of 4 names altogether. If you attach more than 4 names together we will not allocate any of you.

Once the allocation is complete pupils will not be able to change their minds. If they choose to withdraw they will **not** be permitted to participate in any other residential trip.

Non Residential Options

Pupils selecting the non-residential options should indicate what activities they might like to participate in, by choosing 6 choices on the form. Staff will use this information to finalise the programme and these activities will be finalised in January. A letter will be sent home to confirm choices and parent/carers will sign the return slip to confirm choices. Deposits etc. will be collected at this point.

Work Experience (S3 only)

Work experience will be an option for S3 pupils. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain some experience in the world of work. Pupils at this stage need to indicate this is their choice and they will be given forms to complete at a later date (December) where they can submit 3 placement preferences.

SUMMARY

Choose one option and the complete the [Activities Week Form](#) using the link which will open at the start of the week. Complete no later than Thursday 5th October 2017.

Deposits will be required as soon as you have been allocated an activity (before the October holiday).

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Football Trip

Brief Description:	Visit to Newcastle: watch Newcastle United vs Chelsea St James Park behind the scenes tour. Compete in an inter-school World Cup 5-side tournament, play challenge matches against local opposition, 2 training sessions at Newcastle/Sunderland Shopping at the Metro Centre
Inclusive Dates:	Sunday 13th May - Thursday 17th May 2018
Tour Company Operator:	Trans World Soccer
Transport:	Coach
Accommodation:	Hotel - full board
Number of Pupils:	40
Approximate Cost:	£520

Rome, Italy

Brief Description: Rome is the centre of the Roman Empire and has many ancient buildings surviving since this time, including the Coliseum, the Pantheon and other structures. The trip will visit the Catacombs, popularized by the movie Indiana Jones. They are tingled with mystery. Recently an ancient archaeologist claimed the Holy grail could be hidden in Rome
The trip will include Guided tours of the city including the Trevi fountain (featured in many movies) and many other sites of Rome, including the Colosseum and Palatine Hills tour. Day trip to the Vatican City and other opportunities to experience all the great sights and sounds of a city break.

Inclusive Dates: Sunday 13 May – Friday 18 May 2018

**Tour Company
Operator:** WST

Transport: Flights from Glasgow to Rome (Jet 2) and coach transfers

Accommodation: Premier Inn Glasgow and Hotel Mariano Rome (Breakfast included)
Evening meals are included in total price

Number of Pupils: 35

**Other
Requirements:** Valid passport, EHIC card

Approximate Cost: £700 (flight seats price may change slightly when booked)

York

Brief Description:	Ghostly day: York Dungeon, Ghost Walk around the haunted streets of York Action day at Flamingo Land Cultural day: York Minster, York Castle Museum, Jorvik Viking Centre Chill day: York Sweet Factory, River Cruise, shopping
Inclusive Dates:	Monday 14 May – Friday 18 May 2018
Tour Company Operator:	NST
Transport:	Executive coach travel
Accommodation:	Hotel – full board
Number of Pupils:	40
Cost:	£450

Spain, La Pineda, Salou

Brief Description: Trip includes a day visits Nova Camp Barcelona, Taragona, Aqua Park, Port Aventura theme Park, Mont Juic cable car ride.
Evening activities will involve Beach games and activities in the hotel.
NB ALL PUPILS MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM UNAIDED 10 METRES

Inclusive Dates: Monday 14 May – Friday 18 May 2018

Tour Company Operator: NST

Transport: Coach to Edinburgh Airport to Gerona

Accommodation: 4* Hotel – 3 /4 bedded rooms

Number of Pupils: 40

Other Requirements: Valid passport, EHIC card

Approximate Cost: £700 approx. (as flight seats are not released yet this could change)

London

Brief Description: From Tower Bridge to Buckingham Palace, the Zoo and Camden Market, London Dungeon to the Thrills of Thorpe Park. The London Experience is a jam packed week full of culture, fun and education and to top it all off you will see 3 West End Musical shows.

Inclusive Dates: Monday 14 May – Friday 18 May 2018

**Tour Company
Operator:** NST

Transport: Coach

Accommodation: Hotel, bed and breakfast. Other meals at Hard Rock Café, Fire and Stone, Pizza Hut and Planet Hollywood

Number of Pupils: 40

Approximate Cost: £559 (approx. depending on confirmation of accommodation)

NON-RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Following are the selection of home based activities on offer for those pupils in S1 – S3 who are not going on a residential trip.

All times and prices given are approximate until we know how many pupils are going on each trip.

Dundee

Cost - £30

Bus departs school 9am and returns 3.30pm

Visit Dundee Science Centre

Activities include interactive exhibitions, live science shows and hands on activities.

Blair Drummond

Cost - £30

Bus departs school 9am and returns 3.30pm

Visit Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park

Fox Lake, Edinburgh

Cost - £50

Bus departs school 7am and returns 7pm

4 activities could include: Foxfall (low ropes challenge over water), cable wakeboarding, ringo rides (water tubing) and low rope challenge.

Additional Requirements – wetsuit and safety equipment included but must have own closed toe shoes which you don't mind getting wet. Packed lunch. Confidence in and around water.

Codonas Amusement Park

Cost - £20

Pupils will have to make their own way to and from Codonas

Arrival time 10am and departure at 2.45pm

Activities include bowling, outdoor golf, dodgems, pass for all rides. Lunch is included.

Lochter Activity Park

Cost - £60

Bus departs school 9am and returns 3pm

Activities could include archery, rifle shooting, kart racing, segway

Additional Requirements – packed lunch, wet weather clothing and appropriate footwear

Snow Centre, Garthdee

Cost - £15

Pupils will have to make their own way to and from the Snow Centre

Arrival time 10am and departure at 2pm

Activities include Skiing, Snowboarding and Tubing

Additional Requirements – packed lunch, gloves and appropriate clothing

Transition Extreme

Cost - £40

Pupils will have to make their own way to and from Transition Extreme

Arrival time 9.30am and departure at 2.30pm

Activities could include BMX, indoor climbing, outside aerial trekking and fan drop, skate park.

Additional Requirements – packed lunch and appropriate clothing

Peterhead Prison

Cost - £20

Bus departs school approx. 9.30am and returns approx. 3pm

Activities could include: prison tour, access to cell and punishment block access, re-creation of convict working areas.

Gardening: Various Parks and School

Cost – entrance to cinema and local bus fares (payable on the day)

5 days of activities working with the park rangers at Parks and in school. Possible workshop on mini beasts at Duthie Park and creating a mini beast habitat in the quad at school. Visit to the cinema to see a current film (age appropriate).

Additional requirements – appropriate clothing for outdoors including wellies.

Bread and Cake Making

Cost - £20 (Total for the 2 days)

This is a 2 day activity. You will make various types of bread: morning rolls, soda bread, pizza, cinnamon buns and fondant icing work. Make and decorate a Victoria sandwich, scones and muffins. You will be able to take home your baking and you can eat the pizza on day 1 for lunch.

Landmark Adventure Centre, Carrbridge

Cost - £30

Depart school 7.30am and return 6.30pm

Activities include tree top trails, log flumes, rope works, rollercoaster

Additional Requirements – packed lunch, suitable outdoor clothing for all weathers

Edinburgh: Zoo and Dungeon

Cost - £40

Depart school 7am and return 7pm

Visit Edinburgh Dungeon and the Zoo.

Additional Requirements – packed lunch, wet weather clothing

Scotstown Moor Nature Reserve

Visit your local nature reserve and follow a treasure trail to uncover its secrets. A “hands on” experience, all things nature, outdoor exploration, photography and much more.

Maximum number of pupils – 20

Additional requirements – warm and wet weather clothing including wellies, packed lunch

Art in School

Cost – £5 (this may change slightly depending on the material required)

A selection of art activities within the Art Department e.g. tie-dying, jewellery making, still life, clay, paper craft.