



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Northern Lights Learning Trust



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Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

CEO: Jo Heaton OBE

15 March 2023

Re: Derwent Hill Trip – further information

Dear parent/carer,

It is great to see that interest is high so far for the trip to Derwent Hill. There have been a few queries since the initial letter was sent out and I hope that this update answers any emerging questions that you may have.

Place allocation

The draw for Derwent Hill places will take place in the bistro on Friday 31st of March at break time. Please can all Year 7's who have applied for a place meet at 10:20am in the Bistro. Remember the closing date for deposits is Friday 24th of March.

The value and importance of educational visits

Learning outside the classroom is widely recognised as a valuable and effective means of extending pupil knowledge, enriching pupil understanding, and promoting personal and social development. Ofsted also acknowledge the importance of quality learning experiences outside the classroom for raising pupil attainment. Consequently, this Academy promotes and encourages the organisation of educational visits for all its pupils, and it is hoped that parents will also recognise the value and importance of these visits, and give their full support.

Cost of the Visit

The cost of the visit is broken down below:

Total cost per pupil £328

£121.20 Parental cost of accommodation (lodgings)



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£60.60 Parental cost towards board (meals)

(N.B. this payment is NOT required by parents/guardians who are on benefits that entitle their children to school lunches)

Additional voluntary contribution requested from parents /guardians

£121.20 (towards cost of instruction and activities)

£25 (towards cost of transport and activities)

Please note that without voluntary contributions, this visit may need to be cancelled. The Academy will always look at other funding opportunities, however it should be noted that we reserve the right to cancel the trip and refund all monies paid to us, if we are not able to secure the additional funding required to enable the trip to go ahead.

Frequently asked questions

Here are some frequently asked questions that young people may ask about Derwent Hill in your conversations at home. Derwent Hill is a memorable experience that you will share with other young people from your school or organisation. There are a number of things that will help you get the most out of your stay.

Where is Derwent Hill?

Derwent Hill is in the village of Portinscale about 1 mile from Keswick, Cumbria. It is in the Lake District National Park, overlooking Derwentwater.

What do I need to bring? There is a kit list to help you bring the right things. This will follow once places have been allocated.

What is a day like at Derwent Hill?

Every day at Derwent Hill is action packed & full of different experiences. After arrival, you will spend some time finding about how Derwent Hill works & where everything is, you will settle into your bedroom and have a chance to meet some of the Derwent Hill staff. Other days start with a great breakfast after which there is some time to get ready for activities. The first activity starts just after 9:00 with groups either returning to Derwent Hill for lunch or taking a packed lunch if spending the day away from the centre. After lunch groups head out for the afternoon returning at 4:30 in time for dinner at 5:30. In the evening there are some fun activities organised by school staff with help from the Derwent Hill tutors.



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Do I need to bring any money?

No, you don't need any money but there is a small shop at Derwent Hill that sells souvenirs and snacks, groups sometimes stop for an ice cream or other treat, so you might want to bring a small amount of pocket money.

Where will I be sleeping?

You will share a small dormitory with other participants on your course. Most of the dormitories have between 4 and 8 bunk beds and most have their own toilet and shower – if not, there is one nearby.

What activities will we be doing?

Derwent Hill is in the Lake District so you will spend most of your time out and about doing adventurous activities— exactly which activities you do will depend on which course you are doing and the time of year.

What will the weather be like?

Because Derwent Hill is in the Lake District the weather can be very changeable. It can be sunny in the winter and wet in the summer, or the other way round. Make sure you are prepared for anything and you will have a great time!

Yours faithfully,



Mrs V DaGama

Assistant Headteacher



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