

RSY/DSP

22 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 8 Outward Bound Residential

We are excited to announce an upcoming enrichment opportunity for our Year 8 students. As part of our commitment to providing enriching experiences for our students, we are exploring the possibility of organizing a trip to Outward Bound in Wales.

Outward Bound is renowned for its transformative outdoor education programs, designed to develop key qualities such as respect, resilience, and responsibility in participants. Through challenging outdoor activities and team-building exercises, students have the opportunity to push their boundaries, develop valuable life skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for nature and the world around them. In addition to the personal growth aspect, participation in an Outward Bound program can also serve as an excellent foundation for future involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh program. Both programs share similar values and objectives, including the promotion of leadership, self-reliance, and community spirit.

Before moving forward with the planning of this trip, we would like to gauge the level of interest among our students and their families. We believe that this experience has the potential to be incredibly rewarding for all participants, and we want to ensure that there is sufficient interest to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

The trip is scheduled for **Mon 20 – Fri 24th October 2025** at our Aberdovey Centre and would **cost £380**, this is with a 40% charitable contribution already agreed and applied. This cost covers the cost of the activities, travel expenses, food, and accommodation, although there is a refundable £10 cash kit deposit that would be requested upon arrival.

The coach will aim to leave the academy by 8:45am which will ensure we have enough time to get to the centre and get the students settled. The activities will begin in the afternoon. We will be back at the academy by, approximately, 4pm on the Friday, traffic dependant. To ensure the safety of all students we will ask for parents to collect their child at this time.

An expression of interest can be made by completing the attached link - [Outwood Bound Interest](#) no later than 24 February 2025.

If you require any financial support, then the Academy will endeavour to help with the cost you may encounter (please see Appendix A) this should not be a barrier to this exciting opportunity. There are only 36 places available for this trip, if the trip is oversubscribed in the first instance we will contact the tour operator, if it is not possible to increase the numbers, we will allocate places randomly. More details will follow once your child's place has been confirmed. Please be aware that any student displaying unacceptable behaviour in the Academy will lose their place on the trip and forfeit any payment made. We are confident that this experience will be beneficial and a memorable experience for years to come.

...Changing lives

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the academic success and wellbeing of our students. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or see information from the centre themselves.

[Information for parents \(outwardbound.org.uk\)](http://outwardbound.org.uk)

[Sample Programme](#) – due to the tailored nature of our courses, we decide the programme on the day to allow best use of weather, and maximum focus on the needs of the group. This sample programme provides a good idea of what your course might look like.

[Kit List](#)

Kind Regards

Mr. Richard Syrett

Duke of Edinburgh Centre Lead
Darton Academy
Ballfield Lane,
Darton,
Barnsley,
S75 5EF
Tel: 01226 232306
www.dartonacademy.org.uk
info@dartonacademy.org.uk
Principal: Mr J Spencer