



7 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

DARE Days October 2021

At Highlands we are committed to providing students with an exceptional standard of education. Part of that education is the learning that takes place in lessons, but part of that education is also the experiences that take place outside the classroom. As Mr McInerney explained in the parent and carer information evenings in September, this year we are launching a programme of whole school trips and activities designed to enhance and enrich the experiences our students have at Highlands. These days are called DARE days and the first two will take place on 21st and 22nd October.

What are DARE days?

DARE days will take place four times a year, two in October and two in June. All lessons and teaching will be suspended and all students and staff will take part in trips or enrichment activities. These activities have been chosen carefully to support the learning in curriculum areas or to support the development of character, teamwork and confidence. We also want them to be fun! All of them will allow our students to demonstrate the values that underpin all our work: determination, aspiration, respect and equality.

What activities will my child do?

In the table below are the activities that we will run this October. There will be a different set of activities in June. Over the course of seven years from year 7-13, students will take part in 28 days of memorable and exciting activities. COVID-19 means that this October the activities will all be based in London and the south of England. From June we plan to add international visits to the programme of events.

Will all students take part in these activities?

Yes. These activities are carefully chosen and are part of our school curriculum. All students will participate and we will provide financial support so no child cannot participate. We will make sure all students with SEN can participate. We are an inclusive school and everyone from students in year 7 to the headteacher will be involved in the trips.

Are all the activities off site?

At key stage three half the year group will normally be on site on the first day whilst the other half go on a trip. On the second day this reverses and students who have been on site go on the trip and students on the trip stay at school for activities. In older year groups there is more likely to be a focus on careers and guidance or UCAS, although some trips will still run.

Is there a cost?

Yes, but we aim to keep costs to a minimum. Please email visitsandtrips@highlearn.uk for details on how financial support can be provided by the school if required.

Is school uniform required?

Yes, for most activities unless indicated otherwise.

What are the start and end times? Are they different from a normal day?

To stagger the departure of coaches from the site we will adjust the start and finish times for students. Details are given below.

Will school staff be attending and supervising the activities?

Yes, staff will be accompanying students on the trips that are off site. Some activities will be led by staff from the activity centre or by specialist staff visiting the school. Students will be formed into small groups under the supervision of a Highlands School staff member.

What should I do next?

- You will receive an email from Evolve asking for your consent, please complete this as soon as possible and no later than Friday 15 October. This is a quick process. Please let us know if you have not received the email from Evolve.
- Payment for the activities is made using [Parentpay](#). Once logged on you will see a DARE day entry. Please make payments by Monday 18 October.

Activities for DARE days October 2021 - summary

Students will take part in the two activities below over Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October 2021.

	Activity 1		Activity 2	
Year 7	Herts Young Mariners Team building	Off site	Dance challenge day Dance	On site
Year 8	St Albans Geography	Off site	Technology challenge day Technology	On site
Year 9	Woburn Safari Park Science	Off site	Bletchley Park and museum Computing	Off site
Year 10	Altitude activity day Teambuilding	Off site	Bright Futures - Employability workshops Careers	On site
Year 11	Stubbers Adventure Centre Teambuilding	Off site	Globe Theatre workshops English	On site
Year 12	City of London culture exploration	Off site	Bright Futures - Leadership & Vision workshops	On site
Year 13	University applications	On site	Preparing for life after sixth form	On site

Year 7 DARE Day Details

[Herts Young Mariners](#)

Herts Young Mariners Base has been working with schools for over 50 years providing fun and Educational Sessions. HYMB has a wide range of activities run by skilled instructors. Year 7 students will take part in orienteering in the Lea Valley park and then have a choice between climbing, canoeing and kayaking.

Dance Challenge Day

The workshops are being run by guest performers from Architect Dance Company in Chelmsford and Bodens Performing Arts College, Barnet.

During the workshops students will learn and rehearse in a variety of dance styles including street jazz and musical theatre and students will have the opportunity to watch each other's performances at the end of the day.

Total cost for the DARE day activities: £35

Day	Beech & Willow form groups	Oak & Rowan form groups
Thursday 21 October	Herts Young Mariners (off site)	Dance Activity (at school)
Clothing & Equipment	PE kit Waterproof coat Spare clothes including socks and underwear. Old trainers, you don't mind getting wet. Plastic bag for wet and dirty clothes.	PE kit
Lunch arrangement	Students to bring a packed lunch including water	Normal school lunch arrangements
Arrive at school:	8:15	8:30
Return to school / Dismissal	3:30 approx.	3:15
Friday 22 October	Dance Activity (at school)	Herts Young Mariners (off site)
Clothing & Equipment	PE kit	PE kit Waterproof coat Spare clothes including socks and underwear. Old trainers, you don't mind getting wet. Plastic bag for wet and dirty clothes.
Lunch arrangement	Students to bring a packed lunch including water	Normal school lunch arrangements
Arrive at school:	8:30	8:15
Return to school / Dismissal	3:15	3:30 approx.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Whelan
Assistant Head
Incharge of Visits & Trips