



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. Details will follow.

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 8 DARE Day Details

Total cost for the DARE day activities: £20

St Albans

As part of our geography curriculum students learn about the causes and structure of urban areas. In order to help our students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts we learn about in the classroom, we have planned an investigation. Our investigation will take place in St Albans, where our students will walk from predetermined points towards the centre, noting down the differences and undertaking environmental quality checks. We will complete the investigation at school over the subsequent weeks.

Technology Challenge Day

The Design and Technology Department will be running a number of fun and creative DARE day activities this year in school. You will be asked to complete the google form putting the activities in order of preference. Within each activity you will create a product to take home. All of the products created will be judged by the head teacher where he will pick a winner and runner up in each category and a prize will be given. All materials will be provided , unless stated within the descriptions.

Students must complete [this option form](#) for technology choices from their google account.

The technology activity options are:

Option 1: Clay gargoyles and tile design

You will be working up in the Art department learning the art of working with clay and creating gargoyles and your own letter tiles.

Option 2: Design and make a dress or waistcoat

This activity would suit the budding fashion designer; You will follow a pattern , create your own garment and be taught how to embellish your design with additional treasures.

Option 3: T-shirt design and photo manipulation using photoshop.

How creative are you? Throughout the day you will be taught photoshop and shown how to manipulate images to make them more creative. You will then learn the art of heat transfers and apply your images to a T`shirt. If you are allocated this activity please save 2/3 images of yourself onto google so you can access them whilst in the photoshop workshop.

Option 4: Block Bot (wood)- designing and making.

If you are hands on and want to design and make then Block bots is for you. You will use a range of tools and equipment including CAD,laser cutter, Plotter cutter and will produce a fun and creative block bot character out of wood.

Option 5: Designing and making Halloween cakes and packaging

If you think you are a whiz in the kitchen then this activity is for you. You will be making cupcakes decorating them round the theme of halloween and then designing the box packaging for them to go in.

Day	Beech & Willow form groups	Oak & Rowan form groups
Thursday 21 October	St Albans (off site)	Technology Challenge Day (at school)
Clothing & Equipment	School uniform Waterproof coat	PE kit
Lunch arrangement	Students to bring a packed lunch including water	Normal school lunch arrangements

Arrive at school:	9:00	8:40
Return to school / Dismissal	3:15 approx.	3:15
Friday 22 October	Technology Challenge Day (at school)	St Albans (off site)
Clothing & Equipment	PE kit	School uniform Waterproof coat
Lunch arrangement	Normal school lunch arrangements	Students to bring a packed lunch including water
Arrive at school:	8:40	9:00
Return to school / Dismissal	3:15	3:15 approx.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Whelan
Assistant Head
In charge of Visits & Trips