



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 10 DARE Day Details

Altitude

Altitude Events are completely mobile so bring all of the Team Building sessions and activities. They have a highly skilled team of instructors who have worked with a large number of schools and organisations. The events that we will be doing are different team building activities, rock climbing wall, axe throwing and laser light (reaction test) games.

Bright Futures Employability

This workshop is packed full of exciting activities and offers students a realistic experience of working life. The interactive content is original, current and totally relevant to today's students with a dynamic delivery style that gets every student involved.

Overview:

- Imitate the world of work by operating in non-friendship teams
- Enjoy fun, dynamic and stimulating challenges that develop PLT skills
- Take part in kinaesthetic activities
- Develop employability skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and innovation
- Learn and remember the top five qualities employers look for
- Explore the recruitment process from the inside
- Evaluate CVs
- Practise interview skills
- Learn about career and labour market information
- Have the benefit of our presenters' first-hand business experience

Total cost for the DARE day activities: £40

Day	Beech & Willow form groups	Oak & Rowan form groups
Thursday 21 October	Attitude team building (on site on school field)	Employability (on site)
Clothing & Equipment	PE kit Old trainers Waterproof coat	School uniform
Lunch arrangement	Normal school lunch arrangements and bring water.	Normal school lunch arrangements
Arrive at school:	9:00	9:00
Return to school / Dismissal	3:15	3:15
Friday 22 October	Employability (on site)	Attitude team building (on site on school field)
Clothing & Equipment	School uniform	PE kit Old trainers Waterproof coat
Lunch arrangement	Normal school lunch arrangements	Normal school lunch arrangements and bring water.
Arrive at school:	9:00	9:00
Return to school / Dismissal	3:15	3:15

Yours faithfully

Mr M Whelan
Assistant Head
Incharge of Visits & Trips