



15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

S3 Trips and Activities

We aim to ensure that all pupils are included, engaged and involved in the life of the school so that they feel well supported to do their best, attain and achieve. Ensuring pupils have the opportunity to work with partners and take part in trips and activities is an important aspect of our school experience and our aim is to continue to build the number of opportunities which are available for our young people as the guidance about trips continues to evolve post-COVID.

There are many reasons why we believe that trips and activities are of benefit to pupils including supporting and enhance their learning in class, widening curricular experiences, developing skills not readily present from in school curriculum and supporting health, wellbeing and personal development.

Our key aim is that any trip on offer to pupils is a unique opportunity which is best met through the context of a school experience.

At the Parent Council meeting on Monday 4 September, we presented our plan for trips and activities moving forward which will include:

- trips and activities which are linked to curricular areas which will take place at appropriate points throughout the year.
- an S1 ADAPT Day (in September/October) focusing on teambuilding and getting to know pupils in their new classes.
- An S1 Residential (in the summer term) encompassing a range of outdoor activities.
- An S2 EPIC Day (in the summer term) as a year group event.
- The offer of an S3 Residential experience (in the summer term) with different options available from different curricular areas or the offer of an S3 EPIC Day.
- trips and activities in the Senior Phase linked to subject choice.

Due to the lead in time and cost implications of offering different S3 residential experiences across different curricular areas, we had intended to offer the current S3 an Epic Day this year with pupils having the opportunity to contribute to the decision making and planning of the day. This decision was influenced by feedback we received from last year's S3 about their preferred option when we consulted them about trips and activities and the wider feedback from Epic Days this year across year groups. However, we are aware that the current S3 pupils and some of the S4 pupils have not had the opportunity to experience a residential, either in primary or secondary, so we had planned to offer different residential experiences as they move into the Senior Phase (S4 – S6) to provide opportunities which relate to the subjects they go on to choose.

Following a discussion about this plan with the Parent Council, there was a strong feeling from parents that they would prefer to see an offer of an S3 residential this academic year, rather than wait for opportunities in the Senior Phase.

Based on this feedback, we have taken the decision to review the proposal we discussed with the Parent Council and this week we have started the process of consulting all S3 pupils about their preferred option for an S3 experience. This could be an Epic Day in May with the opportunity to take part in residential experiences as they move into the Senior Phase or the offer of an S3 activity based residential.

Once we have gathered pupil views, we will take them into account, alongside our available school resources as part of our decision-making process. Any decision to move to a wider residential offer for this year's S3 pupils may have an impact on our ability to offer the range of other experiences to pupils in other year groups which we will take into account as we make any decisions. Overall, we want to re-establish trips as an important part of our school offering whilst seeking to mitigate the impact of COVID across the year groups most affected.

I hope this provides clarification about the discussion at the Parent Council if you were not able to attend and the steps we are taking as a school to consider the experience of S3 pupils.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Meikle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i'.

Colin Meikle
Headteacher