



# John Spence

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

**Re: Ford Castle Residential 2024**

16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted that we are once again running our Year 7 residential as experiences like this can play such an important part in a child's education and development as well as providing staff the opportunity to get to know the students outside of the school context. Ford Castle is a relatively new outward bounds centre, having only opened in May 2022, and we are really excited to have secured the residential from **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024** as we know that the students will have an amazing time.

Having said all this, we are conscious that the current cost of living crisis and that the cost of the residential may mean some students are not able to attend, but if at all possible we would like this not to be the case. Last year we surveyed parents about their ability to pay for a residential and 75% responded saying that they would be able to pay the full amount and a further 20% replied saying they could afford part of the cost. This survey has helped us to consider how we can support children who would simply be unable to attend without some financial support, so the following arrangements are in place:

The full cost of the residential is £250 and will be paid in instalments with an initial £30 deposit to be made no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Option 1 – Full payment for those parents that can afford to do so.

Initial deposit of £30

Instalments Plan of £36.70 per month for 6 months

Option 2 – 75% payment for families who will struggle to meet the full cost:

Initial deposit £30

Instalments of £26.25 per month for 6 months

Option 3 – Families who would be unable to meet instalment plans in either option 1 or 2

Please contact Mr Betts to discuss further options.

Important points to note:

- Those parents who pay the full cost will not be subsidising other children.
- We are looking for additional funding to support any subsidies for children.
- If the number of requests for subsidies exceed 75% we would not be able to run the residential on this basis and will need to increase the percentage needed from parent contributions accordingly.

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I do appreciate that this approach is unusual, but we are trying to find ways to help all children benefit from this type of opportunity. In order to proceed we will be asking you to complete a second online form with details of how much you will pay after which we will send out details of how you can make those payments.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heath', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher