

Re: Ford Castle Residential 2025

25/09/2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted that we are once again running our annual year 7 summer residential as it is such an important part of 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 a **3-day residential, in the week of 6th July 2026** as we know that the students will have an amazing time. The cost of the residential includes transport, accommodation, all meals and 5 fun filled activities each day including abseiling, zip lining, rifle shooting, archery, assault course, vertical challenge, team building exercises etc. All activities are led by fully qualified instructors supported by school staff.

Having said all this, we are conscious 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 £270 and will be paid in instalments with an initial £20 deposit to be made no later than Friday 24th October.

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

Initial deposit of £20

Instalments Plan of £36 per month starting on 15th November with a final payment of £34 on 15th May

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

Initial deposit £20

Instalments of £27.00 per month starting on 15th November with a final payment of £25.50 on 15th May

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

Please contact Mrs Wylie to discuss further options.

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

Registered address: Pele Trust, c/o Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EG.
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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 25% we would not be able to run the residential on this basis.
- If you choose to cancel your child's place then any refund will be in line with PGL's terms and conditions.

If you wish for your child to attend the Ford Castle residential then please use the school gateway app to make the initial deposit which will be available from Saturday 27th September. Once numbers have been confirmed, the monthly payments will be added to the school gateway.

If you wish to discuss the payment options set out above then please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office no later than Friday 22nd November.

Jonathan Heath

Head Teacher
John Spence Community High School
North Tyneside
0191 296 1432

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John Spence Community High School is part of Pele Trust.