

2019

*always
take the
scenic route*

*And
so the
adventure
begins*



**ABERDEEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES WEEK**

Aberdeen Grammar School

OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

31 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Activities Week: Monday 20 May – Friday 24 May 2019

Following the success of previous Activities Weeks, we are again operating a suspended timetable during the above week to make available a programme of educational and social opportunities for S1 and S2 pupils. This provides different learning activities and usually incorporates the social benefits of developing working relationships with staff and with fellow pupils. The week chosen coincides with the DyW themed week for S3 pupils and the final stages of National Examinations for pupils in S4, S5 and S6.

Those pupils currently in S1 and S2 are being encouraged to study carefully the activities listed in the booklet, which has been placed on the school website, before being asked to make their choice.

Parents and pupils are asked to note the following points:

1. Placements are at the discretion of the school and there is no guarantee that pupils will get their preferred choice as there is likely to be a high demand for various activities.
2. If a pupil withdraws from an activity of their choice after allocation it is highly unlikely that he/she will be offered another 'out of school' activity.
3. Please give careful consideration to financial circumstances before decisions are made. Money is normally collected by instalments and dates must be strictly adhered to. Money paid will not normally be refundable.
4. Pupils who suffer from travel sickness should not choose trips out with Aberdeen.
5. Pupils must be aware that they are required to maintain a positive behaviour record throughout the session or they may be removed from the activity.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Robertson

Mr R Robertson
Principal Teacher Pupil Support

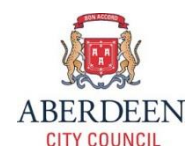
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Aberdeen City Council



Trip:	France Watersports
Dates:	Saturday 18 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	£795
Places:	40

Travel

By Air

Return school to Scottish airport coach transfers are included, as are Scottish flights (tbc).

Summary

Nestled on the French side of the Pyrenees, Argelès-sur-Mer is a spectacular location and home to our adrenalin filled watersports programme. The town itself ideally fits our specification of being large enough to keep pupils entertained, but small enough for you to be reassured that they are safe. This will be our 10th consecutive year offering this very popular trip!



A comprehensive water sports programme is offered in a safe environment, delivered by a team of fully qualified instructors employed by Voyager School Travel. The team of instructors also deliver a full programme of evening entertainments, keeping pupils occupied from dawn to dusk!



At the local beach, just 15 minutes from our accommodation, the watersports programme includes extensive half day sessions of sailing, kayaking, windsurfing and paddleboarding. Pupils should become proficient in each discipline and the instructors will try their best to ensure pupils get more than just a taster of each activity.

If that's not enough pupils also get to visit the world's only man-made canyoning park. This adrenalin pumping sport can be tried in this unique setting which perfectly replicates the feeling of a natural canyon, but in complete safety. For those unfamiliar with canyoning - pupils will take part in activities such as abseiling down waterfalls and jumping off cliffs into plunge pools! This fabulous activity is often voted the highlight of the trip by our pupils.



On the same site the group also get to visit a world class tree-top adventure park which offers a range of 100 stations such as Tarzan jumps, zip wires and swings between 2 and 12 metres high.

Thanks to its great location, Argelès-sur-Mer also boasts a superb selection of local excursions as well as all the attractions of Barcelona.

Accommodation

4* Taxo Les Pins Camping – full board



The campsite itself is set in wonderful pine woods and offers a huge variety of facilities and activities. On entering the site you are greeted by tennis courts and a huge swimming complex with four pools, a bridged island and many water features. As you delve deeper into the campsite you will find a 5 a side court, football pitch, gym, table tennis and of course, petanque!

Our school group is based in our own corner of the campsite with newly upgraded caravans. Voyager staff are on site for all evening entertainments and enquiries. The petit train runs from the campsite to Argelès town (about 10 minute journey). Voyager has good relationships with the campsite and do their best to sort out all our requests like dietary requirements.



Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Travel by coach to Glasgow/Edinburgh airport before boarding flight to France.
- Day 2** Half day tree topping followed by afternoon at leisure. Pupils can use the free time to take advantage of the facilities at Taxo les Pins.
- Day 3** First day of water sports. Pupils will be split into activity groups and during a morning and afternoon session will participate in two of the following activities: kayaking, sailing, windsurfing & paddle boarding.
- Day 4** Excursion day. In previous years we have gone to Barcelona but if pupils prefer there is the option of going to a wakeboarding centre for the day.
- Day 5** Second day of water sports. Sessions will rotate and pupils will participate in the two remaining activities.
- Day 6** Half day of canyoning in the morning. Pupils may get the option of participating in a new activity for 2019 in the afternoon (more information will be released as it becomes available).
- Day 7** After breakfast pupils will head back to the caravans to pack before collecting packed lunches and saying farewell to the Voyager team before boarding our coach back to the airport.

Trip:	Germany
Dates:	Saturday 18 May to Saturday 24 May 2019
Price:	£500
Places:	35

Travel

By Coach

Leaving at 4pm and travelling to Dover by coach before catching an early ferry to Calais the continuing to Simmerath by coach.

Summary

Simmerath is situated in the Aachen region of Germany close to the Belgium border, just a 5 hour drive from Calais. The hostel sits in a beautiful forest and lakeside setting where pupils will get opportunities to enjoy a morning of water sports. A swim in the cordoned off lake is also a must as is the 'Kaffee and Kuchen' at one of the many lakeside cafes. The group will also get to walk up to the awesome Urft dam before taking a gentle boat ride back.



An hour's drive takes you to Phantasialand theme park, the perfect location for thrill seekers. With rollercoasters and water rides there is plenty to get the adrenaline pumping.

If that wasn't enough for the thrill seeker you will also be heading off to the pretty town of Monschau where you can race downhill on the 751 metre long summer toboggan track. Speeds of up to 50km/h mean a typical journey only takes between 90 and 120 seconds! On your run down and the climb back up you will have the most breathtaking panoramic views over the upper Rur valley and Monschau. Pupils will also get time to shop for souvenirs as well as the option to visit an outdoor swimming pool.



Accommodation

4 nights - full board



DJH Simmerath Youth Hostel lies above the Rursee Lake in the Eifel National Park. Perfect for a school party, it has rooms accommodating up to 8 people with washing facilities in each room and shared bathrooms. The youth hostel serves a variety of food and can cater for special dietary requirements.

The group can also make use of the on-site sports facilities such as table tennis and basketball court.

Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart school at 4pm. Travel overnight to Dover.
- Day 2** Coach from Calais to Eiffel district of Germany. Spend the afternoon exploring with a walk through the forest into town for 'Kaffee and Kuchen' before returning to the hostel for dinner.
- Day 3** Drive to the lakeshore for a morning of outdoor activities including raft building, then either archery or a short rope course in the afternoon.
- Day 4** Phantasialand theme park.
- Day 5** Coach to Rurberg then a walk through the stunning Eifel National Park to the Urf Dam and a boat trip back. Onto summer tobogganing in a pretty mountain setting follow by an afternoon of sightseeing in the pretty town of Monshau.
- Day 6** After an early breakfast, check out and head to Calais stopping at either Brussels or Ypres for lunch and shopping.
- Day 7** Arrive back at school at approximately 7am.

Trip:	Ireland
Dates:	Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	£575
Places:	40

Travel

By Coach and Ferry

Executive coach throughout our journey and time in Ireland. Ferry crossing included from Cairnryan to Larne return.

Summary

Dublin, the capital city of Ireland, is famous for its easy going charm and cultural heritage. The city is steeped in rich history, starting with the Vikings laying its first streets. Dublin is located on the East Coast of Ireland, stretching along the Irish Sea in half moon shape. The city is bordered to the South by the dramatic Wicklow Mountains.



Pupils will experience a thrilling tour around the main sites of Dublin city by land and water! The Viking guides will show pupils the sights from a World War II amphibious vehicle and deliver an informative and entertaining commentary.



Pupils will visit Croke Park, Ireland's largest sporting arena which is home to Ireland's national sports, Gaelic Football and Hurling. Pupils will walk in the footsteps of legends on this escorted tour and will also see the sights of Dublin from 17 storeys high on the Skyline Tour which is above the stadium.



Other activities include visiting Ireland's most famous chocolate factory (tasting included) and a visit to the National Leprechaun Museum. The pupils will also get a chance to do some shopping while in Dublin.

Pupils will experience a full day of outdoor activities on site at our accommodation, Newgrange Lodge. Activities include kayaking, archery, an obstacle course and team games.



Finally, a favourite from last year was the trip to Tayto Park, Ireland's only theme park. On offer for pupils are various rides, and a zoo featuring mountain lions, amur leopards, amur tigers and a range of monkeys. Pupils can also visit the Tayto crisp factory during their visit.

Accommodation

Newgrange Lodge



Newgrange lodge is a youth hostel situated within the historical world famous heritage UNESCO parkland of Newgrange in County Meath. Formerly an old farmhouse, the Lodge has been restored and will provide the perfect base for our trip. Pupils will be in single-sex dorms with ensuite facilities. Breakfast, packed lunches and evening meals will also be provided by Newgrange Lodge with the exception of one evening meal in a restaurant in Dublin. Pupils will experience excellent Irish hospitality throughout their stay!

Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Travel overnight by coach to Cairnryan before ferry crossing to Larne. Spend a couple of hours in Belfast before travelling to Newgrange Lodge. Dinner and an Irish dancing lesson in the evening.
- Day 2** Viking Splash Tour, Croke Park Stadium and Skyline Tour, Butlers Chocolate Factory, National Leprechaun Museum, shopping and dinner in Dublin.
- Day 3** Activity Nation on site activity day (archery, grass sledging, obstacle course, team games and kayaking). After dinner a visit to Funtasia for Skyclimb and bowling.
- Day 4** Majority of the day at Tayto park with a visit to Newgrange visitor centre on our way back to our accommodation.
- Day 5** Coach to the Giants Causeway followed by ferry and coach back to Aberdeen.

Trip:	London
Dates:	Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	£660
Places:	40

Travel

By Coach

Coach departing from Aberdeen Grammar School and returning to Aberdeen Grammar School.

Summary

Every evening pupils will head into the heart of London's Theatreland for dinner and a West End show. Pupils will see three shows in total so a great trip for anyone interested in theatre. This trip also makes sure that there are plenty of activities to fill the days away too.

**LONDON
THEATRELAND**



Pupils will get to meet their favourite historic characters and pose with the stars at Madame Tussauds waxworks museum. This visit also includes an interactive 4D Marvel Super Heroes experience. No trip to London is complete without a trip to the London Eye where pupils will ascend the 135m big wheel for a 360 degree spectacular view of London.

Covent Garden is a fashionable, up-to-the-minute shopping and dining destination, but the past remains embedded on the cobbled Piazza and arches of the Market Building. An area also synonymous with performance, from humble beginnings recorded by Samuel Pepys as the birthplace of the 'Punch & Judy' puppeteer show, to the home of street performance today, Covent Garden has never missed a chance to put on a show.



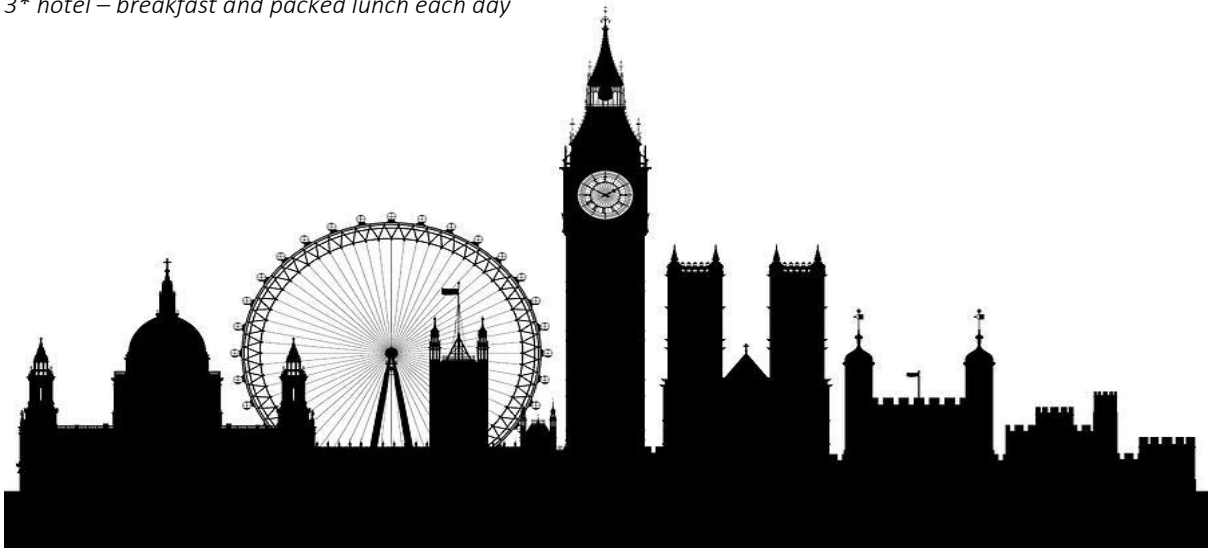
Pupils will get the opportunity to buy souvenirs and street food at Camden Market, a diverse community of creative sellers, street food traders and independent stores next to the regent's canal. An afternoon at London Zoo is also included. The world's oldest scientific Zoo offers every species of animal you can imagine. During the trip to the zoo, pupils will see feeding times and demonstrations.

Thorpe Park is a theme park located within the area of Surrey, Greater London, built on a small island. This park certainly promises to be an island like no other. Major attractions include Tidal Wave, Colossus, Nemesis Inferno, Stealth, Saw – The Ride, The Swarm, and Derren Brown's Ghost Train.



Accommodation

3 hotel – breakfast and packed lunch each day*



The Royal National Hotel is in Bloomsbury, right in the heart of London is ideally located to allow our group to visit London's top tourist attractions. We have a good relationship with this hotel, having used it for many years and they do their best to sort out all of our particular requirements like special diets.

Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart school 5.30am and transfer down to London. Check into hotel and back out for dinner.
- Day 2** Breakfast in hotel. Day of site seeing with visits to Madame Tussauds, London Eye, finished off with some shopping in Covent Garden.
- Pre show dinner and show, then back to the hotel.
- Day 3** Breakfast in hotel. Morning of shopping at Camden Market, then onto London Waterbus canal cruise to London Zoo.
- Pre show dinner and show, then back to the hotel.
- Day 4** Breakfast in hotel. Full day at Thorpe Park.
- Pre-show dinner and show, then back to the hotel.
- Day 5** Breakfast, check out and onto coach for journey home.

Trip:	Spain
Dates:	Saturday 18 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	£730
Places:	36

Travel

By Air

Return school to Scottish airport coach transfers are included, as are Scottish flights (tbc). Dates may change due to flight availability.

Summary

La Pineda is a town in the province of Tarragona, in Catalonia, Spain. The gentle sea breeze, crystalline waters and peace and quiet are just some of the most important features of the La Pineda beach. In total, almost four kilometres of beach accompany the seafront promenade of this coastal town. Additionally, La Pineda beach has been awarded the Blue Flag in recognition of it being one of the cleanest, safest and environmentally well managed beaches.

A day trip to Barcelona with a visit to Nou Camp Football Stadium, is always a highlight. With a seating capacity of 99,354, it is the largest stadium in Europe and the second largest football stadium in the world. It has hosted two European Cup/Champions League finals in 1989 and 1999, five matches including the opening game of the 1982 FIFA World Cup and the football competition final at the 1992 Summer Olympics.



After Nou Camp we go to the cable cars in Montjuic and walk down to the Olympic Stadium which was originally built in 1927 and renovated in 1989 to be the main stadium for the 1992 Summer Olympics. We end the day with a walk up Las Ramblas - the lively pedestrian street lined with tapas places and shops.

Two of Spain's biggest theme parks are on La Pineda's doorstep. Just 3 kilometres away, we will spend a full day at PortAventura Theme Park with its dance shows, rides and restaurants. An afternoon will also be spent at Aquapolis Water Park, positioned right on the seafront. Along with the rides, it also has daily dolphin and sea lion shows.



In addition we will visit the picturesque town of Mont Blanc. Evening activities vary and hopefully offer something for everyone. We will spend one evening bowling and there will also be the opportunity to use the hotel facilities, do activities on the beach as well as shop for souvenirs.

Accommodation

4 hotel – half board*



Pupils will be accommodated in a 4* hotel in the resort of La Pineda itself. The hotel is within easy walking distance of both beach and the resort centre. All rooms are ensuite. More information will be provided after selection is made.

Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Travel by coach to Glasgow/Edinburgh airport before boarding flight to Spain. Afternoon and evening will be spent in and around the resort.
- Day 2** Day trip to Barcelona including entry to Parc Guell, Nou Camp, the cable cars at Montjuic and the Olympic Stadium. Afternoon stroll down Las Ramblas before evening activities at resort.
- Day 3** Excursion to Mont Blanc. Bowling in the evening.
- Day 4** Pool/beach activities in the morning before full afternoon at Aquapolis Water Park and evening activities at resort.
- Day 5** Day at Port Aventura theme park. Evening activities in and around the resort.
- Day 6** Leave for the airport after breakfast.

Trip:	Spain Watersports
Dates:	Sunday 19 May to Saturday 25 May 2019
Price:	£795
Places:	40

Travel

By air

Tossa de Mar is particularly well served by airlines flying into Gerona, Barcelona and Perpignan. This will be followed by a short coach journey to the resort of Tossa De Mar.

Summary



Tossa de Mar, a town steeped in Spanish culture, has an enviable reputation as a first-class water sports destination. Instruction takes place within a naturally safe environment at the tranquil Mar Menuda beach. This is a new addition to our list of residential trips and should prove to be a fantastic week. All activities are delivered by a team of fully qualified instructors, employed by Voyager School Travel, who also deliver a full programme of evening entertainments.

Pupils will spend 3 days at the beach where as part of their kayaking, coasteering and paddleboarding sessions they have the opportunity to explore the many caves, islands and channels within the rich marine habitat of the cove where pupils will also participate in snorkelling and sailing sessions.



If this is not enough, pupils will also spend a day at Waterworld, one of Europe's premiere waterparks, less than 30 minutes' drive from the resort. Here, pupils can enjoy various rides, such as wave pools, rapid rivers and the famous kamikaze. This will be the perfect place for pupils to spend an unforgettable day with friends.

To compliment this action packed trip, pupils will also get to enjoy an exciting morning at a nearby outdoor activity centre, where they will take part in an adventurous laser tag activity.

Pupils will also get the chance to relax in town in the evenings, enjoying an ice cream or buying souvenirs from the local markets. The town has many picturesque squares and cobbled streets to whet the appetite of any tourist.

Accommodation

3 Tossa de Mar Hotel tbc*

Pupils will be accommodated in a 3 star hotel in the resort of Tossa de Mar itself. The hotel is within easy walking distance of both beach and the resort centre. All rooms are ensuite. More information will be provided after selection is made.



Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** Travel by coach to Glasgow/Edinburgh before departing to Spain. Once settled into the hotel, pupils will enjoy dinner followed by evening entertainment.
- Day 2** Pupils will participate in a morning and afternoon beach session where they will participate in a number of water sports activities.
- Day 3** A full day to Waterworld followed by dinner at the hotel and evening entertainment.
- Day 4** Second day of water sports where pupils will participate in further water sports activities.
- Day 5** A morning of laser tag followed by an afternoon at leisure
- Day 6** Pupils will head to the beach for their final day of water sports and team games.
- Day 7** Pupils will have breakfast at the hotel and then depart the resort.

Trip:	York
Dates:	Tuesday 21 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	£410
Places:	35 pupils

Travel

By Coach

Coach travel is included in the price of the trip. The coach will take us from Aberdeen Grammar School to York on Tuesday 21 May, stay in York with us and travel back to Aberdeen on Friday 24 May.

Summary

The first day of Activities Week will be spent in Aberdeen where pupils will choose one of the Aberdeen based activities. The cost of this activity is not included in the total price of the trip to York and will be booked and paid for separately.



On Tuesday we will meet at school at 7.00am and travel by coach to York. This is 350 miles so we will have two breaks along the journey. We will be staying at the Safestay Hostel in central York and after checking in and having an early evening meal, we will go Tenpin bowling.

Wednesday is a full day of activities in York, including visits to The Jorvik Viking Centre, The York Chocolate Story and York City River Cruise along with some free time in The Shambles and the centre of York. We will have an evening meal in the centre of York before walking back to the Hostel.



On Thursday we will visit York Castle Museum and York Dungeons in the morning and travel to Flamingo Land, which is approximately one hour away, in the afternoon. Flamingo Land is a Theme Park and Zoo and further information can be found at www.flamingoland.co.uk. There are several rides to choose from as well as a zoo and a variety of eating places. We will spend a few hours there before travelling back to York. We will have an evening meal in York.

On Friday we will check out of the hostel and travel to Beamish Wild Activity Rope Centre where pupils will participate in the High Ropes Course which includes zip-wires, rope bridges and swinging tyres. More information can be found at <https://www.beamishwild.co.uk/the-course/>. We will then travel back to Aberdeen, arriving late evening.



Accommodation

Accommodation in York will be at the Safestay Hostel, 88-90 Micklegate which is located in the centre of York, within easy walking distance of all the York attractions. Pupils will be in 6 – 10 bedded dorms with private facilities. Breakfast will be included. The hostel has a security system in place as well as 24 Hour Reception and free wifi. There is a small amount of personal storage in the dorms along with plenty of power sockets.



Sample Itinerary

- Day 1** We will spend the first day in Aberdeen where pupils will choose an Aberdeen based activity. The cost of this activity will be in addition to the price of the trip to York.
- Day 2** We will travel by Coach to York with 2 comfort stops along the way. On arrival at York we will check into the Safestay Hostel and have an early evening meal. We will then go Tenpin Bowling in York before returning to the Hostel.
- Day 3** A full day spent in York visiting the Jorvik Viking Centre and York's Chocolate Story. We will also have a one hour guided boat cruise on the River Ouse. We will walk through York City Centre taking in the sights such as York Minster and The Shambles. There will be some free time for shopping. During the evening we will have a meal together at Bella Italia and walk back to the Hostel.
- Day 4** During the morning we will visit York Castle Museum and York Dungeons. After lunch we will travel to Flamingo Land which is approximately one hour away. The afternoon will be spent at Flamingo Land before returning to York for an evening meal and walk back to the Hostel.
- Day 5** Check-out of the Hostel and travel to Beamish High Ropes Activity Centre where we will undertake the High Ropes Activity. We will then travel back to Aberdeen, arriving at school late evening.

Activity:	Pick'n'Mix
Dates:	Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2019
Price:	See below
Places:	Varies

Travel

Depending on the activities chosen, pupils will normally walk to and from the various locations or buses will be arranged by the school. Pupils will always register at school and will return to school at the end of the school day unless otherwise specified.

Summary

For pupils who are not wanting to go away on a residential trip "Pick 'n' Mix" style activities have been organised which still provides them with an excellent opportunity to develop their team building and communication skills as well as enjoy fun activities and learn new skills.

There will be a choice of activities on each day allowing pupils to have a bespoke experience. Activities will also vary in price so hopefully we are catering for all budgets.

Pupils selecting this activity will be given fuller details later in the year.

Aberdeen Grammar School

Activities Week 2019



Pupil's Name	
Tutor Group	
Year Group	
SE Class	

Please study the trips/activities carefully before making your selection. Details can be found in the Activities Week booklet on the school website. Please pay close attention to price/dates which could affect your decision.

First Choice	
Second Choice	
Third Choice	
Forth Choice	

Pupil will be informed of the success of their choice as soon as possible. The allocation procedure will be the same for all pupils, but there is no guarantee that they will get their preferred choice as there is likely to be a high demand for various activities. If any trip/activity is oversubscribed S2 pupils will be given priority in almost all cases.

Organisers of each activity will provide information with more details on the activity when allocations have taken place. They will also give dates by which money will be collected. These dates must be adhered to as it has often to be paid to a tour company.

Parents should also understand that unacceptable behavior by pupils could result in their being sent home, or denied further participation in the activity. In those circumstances responsibility for the pupil's safe conduct home from the activity would lie with parents/carers.

Declaration

- I have read the information issued in connection with the Activities week.
- I understand the nature of the activity/activities to be undertaken and consent to my son/daughter's participation. I consider him/her to be fit to take part.
- I also agree to the other requirement stated in respect of my son/daughter's behavior.

Parent/Carer Name	
Signature	
Date	

Forms to be returned to your Tutor Teacher by Monday 10th September.

LATE forms will only be dealt with after all the others have been considered.