



Year 7 Outdoor Education Courses

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I would like let you know about a few of our very exciting and rewarding outdoor education courses coming up for Year 7 students.

It is a key part of King's Norton Boys' School to enable all of our students to access various forms of outdoor activities. The benefit that both the students and staff gain from the social and leisure pursuits on our outdoor education courses is long lasting and unique to the school.

The reason for this letter is to give you chance to talk about them, to plan ahead and see if your son is keen to attend any of the courses on offer.

Year 7 Outdoor Education Experience Days

At King's Norton Boys' School, we are very proud to be able to offer all students in Year 7 to take part in the outdoor education programme consisting of a variety of activities during their academic year from September.

Each student has the opportunity to pick two activities from the list below. Each activity gives students the chance to gain and develop personal skills like team work, confidence building and self-esteem along with awards to show their achievement in their chosen activity.



Canoeing



Dinghy Sailing



Mountain Biking



Rock Climbing

All safety and activity kits are provided, students will need to bring a packed lunch, spare clothes and a sense of adventure.

To maintain this wonderful opportunity for our students, it is essential we have contributions from families. A contribution of £20 per student (£15 for students in receipt of pupil premium funding) goes towards equipment hires costs, maintenance of equipment and repairs for all activities.

Contributions are to be made via ParentPay to the 'Outdoor Education Programme' item.



If your son would like to take this opportunity, please fill out the reply slip attached and return it to myself via the school office before Friday 6th September.

Once I have received the reply slips, students will be assigned a date and sent a confirmation letter with more details next academic year. Letters will be sent closer to the time of their chosen activity. Activities happen roughly at the following times:

Dinghy Sailing – September / October / June / July

Canoeing - April / May

Rock Climbing – February / March

Mountain Biking – November / December / January

(These times may change depending the amount of students wanting to do each activity.)

Year 7 'Learn to ski in a day' course, Tamworth Snowdome – Launch October 2019

I have organised the first 'Learn to Ski' lesson at Tamworth Snowdome in November for any Year 7 students who would like an introduction into skiing. These lessons will take place all day and will allow your son an opportunity to try a new sport.

We leave school in the mini bus at 9am for a 4-hour lesson on the snow. Students will need to bring a packed lunch with them and we should be back to school approximately 5.30pm depending upon the M6 traffic.

The cost of the full day skiing day lesson is £45 (TBC).

I regret that these lessons are expensive but their popularity and low student instructor ratio forces up the cost.

Skiing is the easier winter sport option to learn if your son is fit, and within 4 hours he should be whizzing down the Snowdome slope once he has mastered the snowplough turn. The ski lessons have been arranged during the second week of November (TBC).

The Learn to Ski courses will be launched with a letter going out in October 2019.





Year 7 Residential, South Wales – Launch October 2019

A summer term outdoor education residential in South Wales has been organised for the five-day period from Monday 13th July to Friday 18th July 2020. This will be the penultimate week of the summer term 2020.

A full outdoor activity timetable of kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, raft building, giant SUPing, high ropes, climbing, sailing, caving, gorge walking, indoor surfing and white water rafting.

The South Wales residential trip for Year 7's will raise the student's environmental, physical, personal and social awareness. The physical challenges will help develop self-confidence, team working skills and a sense of responsibility.



It is for this reason that the summer activity week takes place during the penultimate week of school term after all exams. A week's residential course in South Wales can consolidate the skills of moving, living and learning in different environments. Students will be challenged to develop new relationships, plan and make choices, complete tasks and consider the consequences of their own actions in unfamiliar surroundings.

We have made reservations to accommodate 100 students in Year 7 for this week and obviously we would like your son to join us. The total charge will be £400 (TBC) per student which will cover the cost of transport (by coach and minibus), three meals per day, accommodation fees, equipment and instructor hire, all activities and insurance.





Year 7 Alpine Skiing Course 2019 – Launch November 2019

Once again, we shall be going to the world famous ski resort of the Three Valleys of Alpine Savoie in France. The Three Valleys comprises of Val Thorens, Meribel and Courchevel. It is the largest and highest ski resort in the Alps with snow assured pistes and a glacier at 12,000 feet and 300 snow canons to make the snow if it does not occur naturally. It is a superb ski resort for our boys.



We shall leave school on Saturday 13th March 2021 and return on Saturday 20th March 2021 (TBC). This course will run in term time and will be open to the present Year 7 only. It is available to students in the lower school as they seem to ski with confidence from an early age. All students accepted onto this course in the present Year 7 will be taught to ski at the Snowdome if they wish.

We shall be flying from Birmingham Airport to Geneva (TBC) with a three hour transfer by coach. Our accommodation will be at the Hotel Piolet which is in the centre of Les Menuires near Val Thorens. This accommodation is next door to the ski school, nursery slopes and ski lifts. The hotel will provide full board accommodation. Rooms are 4 bedded with ensuite facilities. The hotel is in a safe, quiet part of Les Menuires where there are a few shops.

One of the advantages of skiing in term time is that the slopes will be less congested and safer. This off peak time also makes the course considerably less expensive. A school based ski course in the Alps is an ideal residential opportunity for your son to develop his independence and social skills away from the classroom whilst learning a new winter sport. The cost of the ski course will be £990 (TBC) spread over 9 months (£190 deposit in November 2019 plus monthly instalments of £100 due in Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, July and the final payment due September 2020).

The price includes the following:

- Morning flight from Birmingham Airport to Geneva
- Coach transfer from airport to Les Menuires
- 7 nights' full board hotel accommodation
- 6 days hire of skis, boots and poles.
- 6 x 5 hour lessons by English speaking French ski school.
- 6-day lift pass
- Full medical and travel insurance cover.
- Return flight.



There will be a limit of 30 places on this exciting course. Letters for all trips will be given out to students by their form tutors.



King's Norton Boys' School

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We are very proud at Kings Norton Boys School to offer such a fantastic outdoor education programme for all students.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email or by ringing the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Julian
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Kings Norton Boys School

Year 7 Outdoor Education Programme

Student (name)..... Form..... would like to take part in the following two activities in the outdoor education programme (Please circle two):

Dinghy Sailing

Rock Climbing

Canoeing

Mountain Biking

Please make payments to the 'Outdoor Education Programme' item via ParentPay.

Signed.....

Name.....

Relation.....

Date.....

Please return to the school reception in an envelope addressed to 'Mr Julian, Year 7 outdoor education'