



7th September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Outward Bound Trust Adventure

Outdoor Education is an integral part of life at Graveney. As part of this all Year 7 are expected to participate in the launch of this programme by attending an exciting 5 day trip to Wales in mid-November. This trip is now a well established part of the Graveney induction and feedback from parents and students shows that it provides a wonderful opportunity to build cohesion across the year group - indeed many lifelong friendships have been formed on Outward Bound!

We know from the parents of previous Year 7 cohorts, from the students themselves and from wider research how much they benefit from this experience and we believe it is part of what makes Graveney education such a unique and special one. From this experience you can expect to see some or all of the following when your child returns from the expedition:

- Increased confidence and improved personal and emotional wellbeing
- Improved relationships with others
- Increased resilience
- Increased confidence in learning
- Improved ability to self-reflect and identify strengths
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the natural environment

We have prepared a video for you so you can find out a little more about how it works, as well as reassuring yourself about how much the children love the experience, including those who can be a little anxious. You can watch the video and find out more about the trip at <https://www.graveney.org/Year-7-Outward-Bound-Noticeboard/>. There is also a list of FAQs below, which you may find helpful.

The programme will run over two separate weeks: the week beginning 16th November and the week beginning 23rd November. You and your child will be notified which week they have been allocated at a later date along with all the paperwork we'll need you to complete.

The full cost of the programme would be over £600 per student but we are fortunate to have received a grant from the Outward Bound Trust so that we can reduce the cost to all parents and make the trip as accessible as possible. We are therefore able to offer the trip to all students for £460 and £115 for Pupil Premium students.

We are aware that there is not much time for families to do their financial planning given the date of the trips. For this reason we can offer parents the option of spreading their payments over a period that extends beyond the date of the trip for those who may find it difficult to manage all the payments beforehand. However if you still feel that you will struggle to complete all the payments for your child please use the contact email address below and we will be able to discuss this with you.

Executive Principal: Cynthia Rickman
Joint Principals: Nancy Brannon & Ed Simmons

Please now make your first instalment via ParentPay and add the medical and consent details that we require. If you have lost or forgotten the details of your child's ParentPay account please contact Ms Cullen on scullen@graveney.wandsworth.sch.uk. Please ensure you have paid as per the schedule below, depending on your chosen payment plan. Due dates can be seen below.

Please also note that, as Outward Bound provide all necessary equipment, there should be no requirement to buy anything specific for the trip, nor is extra spending money required. For any other questions, please visit <https://www.graveney.org/Year-7-Outward-Bound-Noticeboard/> or get in touch via our Outward Bound email address OB@graveney.wandsworth.sch.uk. Finally, there will also be a presentation about the full trip at the Year 7 Tutor Parents Evening on Tuesday 22nd September which we look forward to seeing you at.

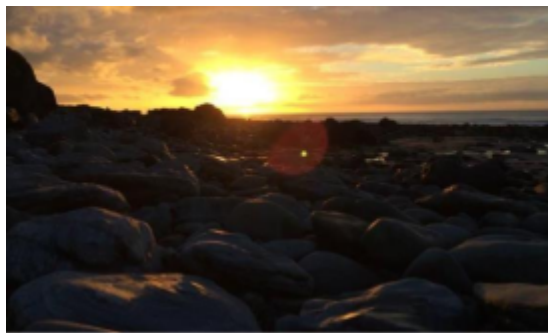
Yours sincerely,

Ms Albury and the Outward Bound Team

Option 1 - 'pay full amount' £460	Option 2 – 'choose payment amount' – type in £230	Option 3 – 'pay (1st, 2nd etc) instalment (£115)
1 Instalment – 29th September	Instalment 1 – 29th September	Instalment 1 – 29th September
	Instalment 2 – 29th October	Instalment 2 – 29th October
		Instalment 3 – 29th November
		Instalment 4 – 2nd February

For students on Pupil Premium the instalments are:

Option 1 - 'pay full amount' £115	Option 2 – 'choose payment amount' – type in £57.50	Option 3 – 'pay (1st, 2nd etc) instalment (£28.75)
1 Instalment – 29th September	Instalment 1 – 29th September	Instalment 1 – 29th September
	Instalment 2 – 29th October	Instalment 2 – 29th October
		Instalment 3 – 29th November
		Instalment 4 – 2nd February



Frequently Asked Questions – Year 7 Outward Bound Adventure

Where exactly is the Outward Bound Centre?

The Outward Bound Centre is in Aberdovey in the Snowdonia National Park in Wales. It is the perfect centre for outdoor education as it includes access to the beach, to water activities, and to mountains for expeditions. This gives young people the richest and broadest experience of the outdoors.

What is included in the cost of the trip?

The trip is all inclusive, meaning travel, equipment, food, accommodation, tuition, 24 hour pastoral care and comprehensive insurance are included.

How do you travel there?

We travel from Graveney School to Aberdovey by coach. The journey takes approximately 7 hours and includes one stop. You will need to drop your child off at school at the allocated time early morning on the departure day (Monday), and collect them on time in the evening when we return (Friday). You will need to provide a packed lunch for the journey to Wales, but a packed lunch will be provided on the return journey.

What is the accommodation like?

Students are housed in comfortable and warm dormitory rooms with between 4 and 8 students per room. All bedding is provided.

What is the food like?

In one word – fantastic! The kitchen team are passionate about providing the tastiest food they can, with lots of the ingredients coming from local suppliers. Dietary requirements are fully catered for – we just need to know in advance. There are plenty of tasty snacks to keep your child going during activities, and different options at each meal time. There are often second helpings offered.

What activities are on offer?

There are lots of different activities on offer and these will vary according to weather conditions, and the timetable organised by the centre. They include an expedition in the mountains, and can include jetty jumping, canoeing, gorge walking, raft building, beach activities, and numerous team building challenges. There is plenty of variety, and so lots of learning opportunities that are both engaging and interactive.

How safe are the activities?

Each group is led by a skilled and dedicated Outward Bound Instructor, and accompanied by a member of Graveney staff. Instructors provide not only outdoor technical and safety instruction, but also act as role models demonstrating the attitudes and behaviours that they are aiming to nurture in individuals. All specialist equipment is provided by the centre and meet safety requirements.

How are groups organised?

Group sizes are a maximum of 12 students, organised by the school and the centre in mixed Tutor Groups to build new connections and relationships. Your child will be in the same group throughout the week, so that they can forge strong bonds with their team, and build a sense of confidence, capability and purpose during the trip. Information about groups will be shared in advance of departure.

My child has never been away from home before – what if they get homesick?

Your child will be well looked after by their dedicated Instructor and Graveney staff member who will accompany them throughout the trip. We are here to support your child as they deal with change, and build their confidence. If you think your child may be particularly affected, please do let us know in advance.

My child has been on an Outdoor Trip before and didn't enjoy it – how is this trip different?

On the trip students are with the same group throughout the week, making students feel safe. This allows us to focus on more than just participating in outdoor activities: in their teams, students are able to review and learn from their mistakes, explore their fears, adapt to new situations, and be fully supported in the process. Instructors and accompanying staff are at the heart of your child's experience, and as part of this, we participate in activities and share our own fears and learning journey. We challenge students to never give up, to change their perspective and to learn the most important lesson in life: to believe in themselves.

What if my child has a medical, social, emotional, educational, dietary or religious need?

The Outward Bound Trust has a firm commitment to accommodating different needs, and a strong belief that experiencing the outdoors is for everyone. We will ask you to provide information about your child's needs. It is important to provide full details, so we can ensure they have a positive and enriching experience on the trip. Medication will be collected in advance.

Does my child need to bring spending money?

It is not essential for your child to bring money, though you may want to provide them with £10 for expenses. There is a shop at the Centre selling Outward Bound branded clothing and snacks, and your child may want to purchase something when we stop on the journey to and from Wales. Your child should not bring valuables on the trip.

What does my child need to pack for the trip?

All specialist equipment is provided – this includes waterproofs, wetsuits, walking boots, torches, sleeping bags etc. A packing list will be provided. Warm and quick drying clothing is best to pack as this can be layered. Your child will also

need 2 pairs of trainers – preferably old trainers as they are likely to get muddy and wet! Your child should bring their own toiletries and towel.

How will I know how the trip is going when my child is away?

You will receive updates and pictures during the trip.

What do I do if I have any further questions?

A Parents Evening will be held on 22nd Sept to provide further details of the trip. We will also send you information via email / letter, and request further information from you about your child. We appreciate your support in completing any documentation by the deadlines – this is to ensure the trip runs smoothly and the Outward Bound Centre has all the information they need.

Finally, if you still have any questions then please send them through to this email address:

OB@graveney.wandsworth.sch.uk