

# INSIDE

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# Hello...

nd welcome to the first issue of Top School Trips!. Depending on your prior experience - or, perhaps, if you're new to it all, your preconceptions the thought of planning and participating in a school trip may fill you with excitement or dread (and maybe even a little of both). It's easy to understand the reservations: "Where do I start, and how on Earth are we going to keep track of 50 plus teenagers all looking for the opportunity to run off and disappear the moment our backs are turned?" are two that spring to mind. But the truth is that with a little planning, and the support of the many experienced trip providers and education teams out there (not to mention your colleagues), escaping the confines of the classroom for a day or even a week needn't lead to sleepless nights. And without a doubt, the benefits far outweigh the headaches...

It is worth lingering on those benefits. As a large part of this magazine aims to make clear, learning outside the classroom, and heading out to sites of cultural and academic interest or those focused on personal development, in particular, can yield positive results across the curriculum. It can help engage students in their learning, support their understanding of complex topics and issues, boost their confidence and motivation, and even change the way they view the world. With the potential to develop the hard and soft skills children must learn as they approach adulthood, it's hard to overstate the humble school trip's value.

So, whether you want to take a short trip down the road, spend a week away on a residential or embark on an adventure overseas, please read on – I hope you'll find some advice and inspiration that will help you make your trip a success.

# Jacob Stow Editor



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# What makes a GREAT SCHOOL TRIP?

Planning a successful away day (or week) can feel daunting at times, but by following some simple advice and embracing your ambitious side, you can give students experiences they'll never forget...

I've stood on the summit of Kilimanjaro, heard the last post at the Menin Gate, sat in an Austrian casualty department waiting for the results of students' X-Rays (and my own, I should add), and spent innumerable days in Disneyland trying to get the dastardly earworm from 'It's

a Small World' out of my head, all surrounded by students who are truly being transformed by their experiences. If your school isn't running extended trips abroad, you should be looking into it. From a long weekend at the winter markets, to skiing in half term, all the way to a month-long expedition in a developing world country, these

opportunities will help turn your charges into young adults, and you can be part of that process too.

**Dougald Tidswell,** maths leader, Buckinghamshire Upper School – read more at bit.ly/2HbjqVT

Selecting a destination is all about what you can get from it and how it can support learning goals. Planning well ahead enables you to prepare pupils with work before they go and make follow-up work more meaningful after.



A successful visit is one that has precisely defined objectives for the subject areas you want to cover, and for the type of knowledge you want your children to bring back to the classroom.

Liaising with a provider before a visit is crucial – a provider can't be blamed if schools don't share clear guidance about the expected learning and how to promote it. It's a case of 'buyer beware' – do your research, read the reviews, do a pre-visit, speak to schools that have been there, and leave no stone unturned when it comes to ensuring you are getting the best value and learning experiences that combine with activities in the classroom.

John Dabell – read more at bit.ly/2HHQ61p



Residentials have been proven to play a transformational role for the staff involved. They give you time to reflect on your practice and your teaching, to become more experimental and flexible, and more willing and confident to take risks and try new methods. They can play a significant role in professional development, in particular through the opportunities to take on additional responsibility. They also present the opportunity to develop planning and organisation, evaluation and volunteer management skills.

Residentials give you space to discover things about your students you can't see in the classroom. The trusting relationships developed between staff and students mean that children often share more about themselves, enabling staff to better understand their behaviour.

And the high-trust relationships built between staff on residentials can also have long-lasting impacts at both professional and personal levels. Residentials give adults the opportunity to work with staff from other subject areas or year groups, as well as spend extended time with each other both during planning sessions — within and across schools — and on residentials themselves. The sense of community and the memorability of experiences on residentials helps to boost your cohesion and a sense of belonging in your school, both on the residential and afterwards.

Kim Somerville, campaign coordinator, Learning Away – read more at bit.ly/2JUKKRp

# IN PRACTICE

"IT WAS A LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE"

In July 2016, 14 of our students and two members of staff travelled to the Bale Mountains in the Oromo region of Ethiopia. This lifechanging adventure for the students allowed them to work alongside local villagers on a community

project, contribute to re-forestation and develop greater links with a project visited two years ago by other Walsall Academy students.

The students lived in the local village completing these projects and then travelled high up into the Bale Mountains to discover more about this beautiful country. They looked for Ethiopian wolves and niala and spent evenings under the starlit African skies, listening out for the chatter of baboons, the howls of hyena and the roar of distant lions.

The students had spent the previous 18 months fundraising to gain their place on the expedition and were fortunate to gain support from the Mid Counties Cooperative and the Outward Bound Trust.

**Jon Clarke** Shadow Headteacher at Walsall Academy



With our A-level geography residential field trip, students devise their own research question and plan the residential so that they can complete the research necessary for their individual piece of coursework.

The seven-day residential is based in two locations, the Eden Project and the Slapton Ley

Field Study Centre, which allows them to compare and contrast different areas. The residential is therefore a unique experience for all involved. The students review each day, and adapt and alter plans where necessary to accommodate each other's research. They learn how to work as a team, even though they are working on an individual research project, and how to overcome limitations in resources to successfully complete their coursework.

# Neston High School, Cheshire

Walsall Academy and Neston High School are Learning Away Champions – read more about great residentials at learningaway.org.uk



Your next school trip could be the most powerful educational experience your pupils will experience this term, but it's easy to fall into old habits when planning. You had a great time last year, you know what to expect if you go back to the same venue, and before you know it you have been going to the same venue for 10 years to do the exact same activity. This year, start by thinking about what you want to achieve for young people, then think about what learning locations and activities will help you to achieve your objectives.

A compelling learning experience:

- has clear learning outcomes relating to what learners need to know and understand, the skills they will acquire and areas of personal development
- is real and relevant, connecting learning at school to the world beyond the classroom
- draws together several aspects of learning by utilising cross-curricular opportunities or opportunities to develop personal, social, learning and thinking skills
- gives learners the chance to think critically, make decisions, take responsibility and manage risks
- broadens horizons and raises aspirations, offering contexts that challenge learners and encourage them to step outside their comfort zone.

**Elaine Skates** CEO, Council for Learning Outside the Classroom – read more at bit.ly/2H8yNcK



# Ataste for ADVENTURE

What do students actually get out of scaling a rock wall or building a raft? You might be surprised...

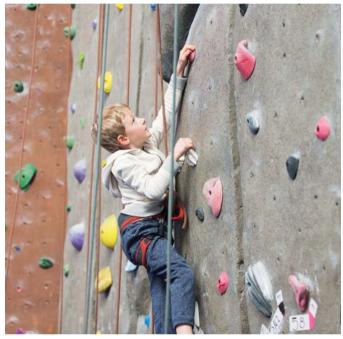
here's a school trip for every subject area and every learning objective - if you want your students to expand their knowledge of marine ecosystems and biology, you'll likely be making a beeline for the nearest aquarium; if you're interested in the waging of the Great War then perhaps a visit to the battlefields of Ypres is in order. But if you're less concerned with the academic and more with the personal, what then?

There are great arguments to be made for treating pupils to cultural experiences of any kind – there's plenty to enrich us all at art galleries and museums, and see our piece from page 80 on the considerable benefits to be had from spending time at the theatre. But when it comes to helping them grow as people and bond as a group it's hard to look beyond the unique appeal of an adventure-packed activity day in the fresh air.

# New experiences

In a world in which exams take priority and quality time in the classroom is precious, opportunities to get children outside are often few and far between. Barring a small amount of PE, occasions in which they can get active are often even scarcer. So a trip to an adventure/activity centre offers students something outof-the-ordinary – an unfamiliar but exciting environment whose challenges, both physical and cerebral, are very different to the norm.

As a means of broadening their horizons it's a fantastic



option – it's not every day (or, in the case of many of your charges, any day) that children get the chance to climb a rock wall, learn to abseil, rush down a zipwire or practise archery, or perhaps take to the water and try their hand at canoeing or raft-building.

Some of your group may discover a hobby that will stay with them long after they return home, but even if they don't, the experience is unlikely to be one they'll forget, enriching their development in the round.

# Soft skills

Activity days or weeks are supposed to be (and are, unless something's going wrong) great fun, but they are far from frivolous. Some of your students will take to activities such as those mentioned like ducks to water; others may need longer to adjust, but all will benefit in a

host of meaningful ways.

Participating in unfamiliar activities - particularly those that fall under the 'risky' label - takes courage whether you are generally an extroverted or introverted character. Persevering when the going gets tough (e.g. when teetering several metres above the ground suspended by only a rope) requires resilience both emotional and physical. Working as a team to achieve a particular goal, whether it's reaching the top of a tricky climb or assembling a lake-worthy raft, calls for strong social skills, with the emphasis on communication and collaboration. And succeeding, and maybe surprising yourself with what you can do along the way, cannot help but send confidence and self-esteem soaring.

Importantly, the skills

described are not just important when tackling the type of hands-on challenges you can expect to find at an activity centre, but can also be directly applied to the classroom and, later, the world of work. In particular, the ability to problem solve, work as a team and take the lead in decision making when required is essential in many roles, and opportunities to practise all three really come to the fore on these types of trips.

# Positive thinking

Perhaps most importantly of all, taking part in activity days is widely considered to encourage the positive, can-do attitude that is so important whatever students are being asked to learn. If they feel they can overcome the unfamiliar barriers that are thrown at them in the great outdoors, and are motivated to do so. their self-belief and drive can encourage them to put all the skills they possess to good use when they return to the classroom - and when this happens, it can only be good news for educational outcomes.

With their mix of physical and fresh air challenges, and capacity to benefit students holistically, activity trips are worthy of a spot on any's school calendar of educational visits – and you'll find many options to tempt you elsewhere in this issue.

Read more about how learning outside the classroom can promote personal development in Matthew Lester's article from page 78.





# **WE LOVE TO LEARN**

# A wonder of the modern world

Travel to Continental Europe 50 metres below the seabed!

Since 1994, nearly 25 years ago, millions of Brits have been driving their cars onto Eurotunnel's shuttle trains at Folkestone in Kent, and then being whisked at 140km/h under the sea through its huge tunnels to Coquelles in Northern France. The Channel Tunnel is the longest undersea tunnel in the world, but the journey platform to platform takes just 35 minutes.

In this period Eurotunnel has carried

54 million cars, over two million pets (dogs and cats) and 26 million trucks. It offers a fixed link to Europe, and thousands of parcels, fresh food, flowers and vehicles travel through the tunnel each day. Have you ever thought how far your dinner has travelled to get to you? It might just have passed through the Channel Tunnel from Europe or beyond...

# - CURRICULUM LINKS



### **HISTORY**

One of the earliest attempts to tunnel under the English Channel started in 1880! It was aborted because of concerns about invasion by the French.



### **GEOGRAPHY**

4.9 million cubic metres of chalk marl excavated from the tunnels were used to create a Nature Reserve, increasing the size of the UK by 90 acres.



# **ENGINEERING**

One of the 20th century's greatest feats of engineering, the Channel Tunnel is considered to be amongst the seven wonders of the modern world.

# TUNNEL



Each shuttle train is 775 metres long – that's the length of eight football pitches.



For Valentine's Day each year around 26 million red roses are delivered through the tunnel to the UK.



The original shaft drilled in Coquelles, Calais had an internal diameter of 55 metres and a depth of 65 metres. It was large enough to contain the Arc de Triomphe.

Find more amazing facts in Eurotunnel's insert, which comes free with this issue of *Top School Trips*. If someone has beat you to it, don't worry just go to



www.eurotunnel.com/facts and download your copy. Print and display it in your classroom so everyone can learn a bit more about this fascinating company.



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# Coming up

Don't miss out – here's what's planned over the next few months...

26-28

# MAY

# Arundel Castle – Castle Siege

While not based on a historical battle, this exciting display will allow visitors to experience aspects of a 15th century siege, with fully armoured knights fighting, replica cannons firing and a tented encampment to explore. Will the French raiding party that has seized the castle hold out, or will King Edward IV and the Earl of Arundel be able to wrest it back for England? Visit arundelcastle.org



# Science Museum – Wounded: Conflict, Casualties and Care

This special exhibition explores the huge medical and human impact resulting from the casualties of the First World War. (Until June 2018) Visit sciencemuseum.org.uk

# Chessington World of Adventures – Tiger Rock

Host to a family of four endangered Amur tigers, Chessington's new Tiger Rock exhibit comes with a new interactive workshop, Tigerrific Conservation, which can be tailored for KS3, 4 and 5 pupils. (Opens 5 May). Visit **chessington.com** 

# Clip 'n Climb Leeds - opens 26 May

Boasting 32 individual climbs, including the hair-raising nine-metre Vertical Drop Slide, Stairway to Heaven and Astro-Ball, this is the biggest Clip'n Climb in the North. Visit clipnclimbleeds.co.uk



# 5JUNE

Tate Britain – Aftermath: Art in the Wake of World War One

Marking the 100 years since the end of World War One, this exhibition looks at how artists responded to the physical and psychological scars left on Europe. Included are works by George Grosz and Otto Dix, exposing the unequal treatment of disabled veterans; Hannah Höch and André Masson, who were instrumental in the birth of new art forms dada and surrealism; Pablo Picasso and Winifred Knights, who returned to tradition and classicism; and the likes of Fernand Léger and C.R.W Nevinson, who depicted visions of the city of the future as society began to rebuild itself. (Closes 23 September.) Visit tate.org.uk

28th

# Diamond Light Source – Engineering Your Future

Diamond is the UK's national synchrotron, which works like a giant microscope, harnessing the power of electrons to produce bright light that scientists can use to study anything from fossils to jet engines to viruses and vaccines. Its team run a variety of open days and events for schools, including this one, aimed at students in KS5 who are interested in engineering careers. The day is split into four sessions, each lasting 45 minutes, providing insights into different aspects of science. There will be workshops from Diamond/STFC engineers and external companies, and a tour of Diamond.

Visit diamond.ac.uk



# World Museum, Liverpool – China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors

This fantastic exhibition has been running since late February and closes in October, but at the time of writing there are still some early morning exhibition-only visits for schools available in June – don't delay! Visit liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

**27**JULY



# IWM North – Lest we forget?

Running from the 27th until 24 February 2019 at the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, this exhibition examines how the shocking number of casualties suffered has influenced how we view the Great War. Varied exhibits include a photograph showing the selection of a body for The Unknown Warrior to the original Joey puppet from the National Theatre production of War Horse, and several iconic paintings commissioned by the British government in 1918 from some of the nation's most prominent war artists intended for a WWI memorial gallery that was never built - alongside 180 objects, photos and film/audio clips and documents. Visit **iwm.org.uk** 

# Alton Towers - Street Dance

Calling all dancers, performers, movers or just those that want to be part of a once in a lifetime experience! Alton Towers Street Dance in a fabulous opportunity for your students to learn an original Street Dance at the resort. They will then perform a brand new and bespoke routine with many other schools in one huge performance - and have the rest of the day to enjoy the theme park! (4 July). Visit altontowers.com





# 16 SEPT

# Natural History Museum – Sensational Butterflies

The 16th is the last time this year visiting groups to the Natural History Museum will be able to take in the Sensational Butterflies exhibition, at which you can observe hundreds of live butterflies and moths up close, all ethically sourced from Africa, Asia and the Americas. The exhibition takes place in the museum's tropical butterfly house on the museum's east lawn, and offers plenty of opportunity to observe the behaviour and diversity of these exotic creatures. Visit nhm.ac.uk

# OCT

# Alton Towers – Business of Leisure

Free to those with student theme park tickets, Alton Towers' Business of Leisure event is back for 2018, linked to curriculum/exam specifications and offering attendees a great opportunity to get to know the people who run this leading UK theme park resort. Interactive sessions enable students to quiz senior managers about their roles in business management, customer service, marketing or hospitality. Each will talk through their business and job role as well as exploring their career path - there will be plenty of time for questions and even prizes! The event will also take place on October 12th, 18th and 19th.

Visit altontowers.com

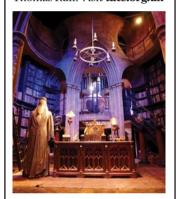


# Museum of Science and Industry – Manchester Science Festival

Every October this festival creates a place for innovative, surprising and meaningful experiences, where people of all ages can ignite their curiosity in science. (From 18 Oct). Visit manchestersciencefestival.com

# Tate Modern - Shape of Light

This exhibition, which runs 2 May to 14 October, tells the intertwined stories of photography and abstract art, spanning the decades from 1910 to the present day. Key photographs are brought together from pioneers including Man Ray and Alfred Stieglitz, and major contemporary artists such as Barbara Kasten and Thomas Ruff. Visit tate.org.uk



# 7 CLOSES NOV

# Warner Brothers Studio Tour – Dark Arts

Get your students out of the classroom and on to the world-famous authentic sets of one of the most successful film series of all time. Harry Potter. Throughout the Hallowe'en season, visitors will discover the filmmaking secrets behind the wizarding world's Dark Arts – but as well as enjoying everything the experience has to offer, students will be able to access the studio's education programme, which meets learning objectives from the national curriculum and exam board specifications. The range of lessons offered explores the artistry, technology and talent that went into creating the films. Visit wbstudiotour. co.uk/schools



# CLOtC 2018 Conference

Taking place at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom's annual conference is a fantastic opportunity to keep up-to-date with the learning outside the classroom sector. Attendees will have the chance to listen to inspiring speakers, and there will also be a programme of practical and informative workshops designed both to support you to develop your skills outside the classroom, and provide information on the latest LOtC research and projects. Visit lotc.org.uk



# CLOtC - Building Confidence in LOtC

Taking place on 31 January 2019 at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, this half-day training course for schools is followed by 'Moving on with LOtC', which builds on what's covered in session 1. Other dates are available in 2018. Visit lotc.org.uk

# 10 OF THE BEST THEATRE TRIPS

Raise the curtain on your next educational visit by taking in a hit show or booking an inspiring workshop...

Disney's Aladdin
Breathtaking sets, mind-blowing
special effects, over 350 lavish
costumes and a fabulous cast and orchestra
bring the magic of Disney's Aladdin to life
on the West End stage. This spectacular

on the West End stage. This spectacular show, which is packed full of dancing, music and storytelling, is a fantastic stimulus for creative work and will inspire primary and secondary pupils alike.

You can enhance your visit with free online resources, including a nine-part video library, or take advantage of a range of pre-show workshops led by Disney Theatrical Teaching Artists.

Prepare to escape to a whole new world!

Find out more at

www.aladdineducation.co.uk



# The Emmerdale Studio Experience

The Emmerdale Studio Experience takes place at the former ITV studios in Leeds, where selected filming still takes place, and allows students to step into the drama and experience the television production process from 'Script to Screen'. The education programme is tailored for Key Stages 2–5 with links to the national curriculum and exam board specifications for English, film and media studies.

The price of a ticket is £9.95 per pupil, with free admission for teaching staff. The tour and workshop must be pre-booked by calling the reservations team on **01904 261 262** – for more information, visit

www.emmerdalestudioexperience.co.uk

With songs by Grammy and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, and "superbly written book" (Hollywood News) by Harvey Fierstein, Jerry Mitchell's joyously uplifting production is about the friendships we discover, and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind.

There is an extensive education programme on offer, exploring themes of acceptance, diversity, and the ability to 'just be' who you want to be. Suitable for Key Stage 3 and above, the online resources support studies in drama, PSHE, English and SMSC and have been specifically designed for teachers to enhance lessons before and after their visit.

For more information, call **020 7087 7754** or visit **www.kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk** 





ATG Creative Learning Workshops

ATG's Creative Learning team understand the value of learning through a creative process and the many ways in which it can engage and inspire students, bolstering the hard work of teachers and their schools. All of ATG's group workshops are bespoke and can be tailored to offer an exploration of any English or drama text on the GCSE and A Level curriculum or otherwise. Best of all, students taking part will be working with truly inspiring West End professionals at a competitive cost.

For more information, email emilybuckroberts@theambassadors.com or visit creativelearning.atg.co.uk

Royal Court
Theatre

The Royal Court is a leading force in world theatre for finding writers and producing new plays that are original, contemporary and provocative. Its education programme encourages young people to investigate, enjoy and participate in the craft of making theatre, opening up the world of the rehearsal room as well as backstage, and offering practical learning opportunities for students.

From study days, production workshops, INSET sessions and community projects, the organisation offers a fascinating insight into the professional process of staging Royal Court productions.

www.royalcourttheatre.com



Open Air Theatre

Packed with puppetry and enough theatrical magic to enchant both young and old alike, the Olivier Award-nominated production of *Peter Pan* is back at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

The production is framed by the First World War and remembers George Llewelyn Davies – the original inspiration for Pan, who was later killed in action – in a spellbinding reinvention for the final year of the First World War Centenary Commemorations. Timothy Sheader and Liam Steel's "stunning, moving, definitive production is not to be missed," in the words of *Time Out...* 

For more information, call **0844 375 3460** or visit **www.openairtheatre.com** 





Voted 'Best Theatre Production for Schools' by teachers at the School Travel Awards two years running, *Wicked's* topical story of friendship, acceptance, integrity, peer pressure and propaganda is relevant for PSHE and citizenship teaching, and whole-school anti-bullying strategies. The show is highly pertinent for all students studying BTEC Nationals in Performing Arts, as well as a wealth of additional subjects, and the song 'Defying Gravity' is also a set work for the Edexcel GCSE Music qualification.

Visit www.wickedthemusicalco.uk for tickets plus details of the schools' workshop programme, run by current and former members of the cast and creative team.



Curve
Currently celebrating its
10th anniversary, Curve is a
state-of-the-art theatre based in the heart of
Leicester's vibrant Cultural Quarter. As well
as live performances, it offers a wide range
of inspiring educational workshops, designed
to open up the world of theatre and reveal
the hidden process of a rehearsal room.
Students are afforded the opportunity to
engage more deeply with the artists,
subject matter and processes in the
theatre's artistic programme, and links
are made to the curriculum.

To book your place, please contact **learning@curvetheatre.co.uk** or, for more information, visit **www.curveonline.co.uk** 





Mayflower Theatre
Mayflower Theatre delivers a diverse
range of creative workshops, theatre
tours and events tailor made for schools, colleges
or groups – taking place either at the theatre or
at your own setting. It also supports talks and
workshops on a variety of creative careers, and
offers a conference-style event for young people
exploring entering the industry, in particular
non-performance based careers, drawing on
the expertise within its marketing, sales,
technical and FOH departments, as well as

For more information, call **02380 711 800** or visit **www.mayflower.org.uk** 

Shakespeare's Globe
Every day hundreds of students take
part in curriculum-linked workshops and
lectures at, or delivered, by Shakespeare's Globe. Visit with
your group and you'll also be able to benefit from an
exploratory tour of the theatre.

Workshop options include interactive storytelling sessions for Key Stages 3 to 5, which include a 45-minute performance by a Globe Education practitioner. Longer study days, exploring topics such as language or contextual influences on performance, for Key Stages 4 and 5, and GCSE study days are also available. The Globe has extensive experience of working with children with SEN and EAL, too.

For details, visit www.shakespearesglobe.com/education





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# **WE LOVE TO LEARN**

# The making of a hit musical

Find out what it takes to stage a West End show with Disney's Aladdin

Disney's spectacular West End production of *Aladdin* has been seen by more than 70,000 school pupils since it opened in 2016. Now schools can take advantage of a video library that explores the process of bringing the musical to the stage. These nine short films, hosted by Angellica Bell, feature engaging interviews with the show's original creative team as well as the London production team and cast, plus on-screen discussion points.

The library will give teachers and students an exclusive glimpse at costume and set design, characterisation, the crew, the ensemble, the music and much more. The videos have been made in consultation with teachers and will prepare pupils fortheir theatre experience while deepening their understanding of the processes involved in theatre making.

# **CURRICULUM LINKS**



## **PERFORMING ARTS**

Pupils gain knowledge of direction, concept, artistic vision and how meaning is communicated, as well as collaborative working, by exploring the backstage roles involved in staging the show.

www.aladdineducation.co.uk



# **ENGLISH**

Pupils will have the opportunity to use standard English formal and informal contexts, including classroom and structured discussions.



# ART AND DESIGN

Pupils will learn how set and costume designs are inspired, and ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions can be communicated through them, while using the language of design.

T: 020 7845 0949

949 E: groupsales@disneytickets.co.uk

# LEARNING JOURNEYS

# Resource 1 – The video library

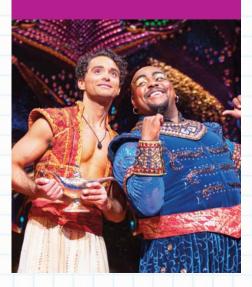
The library's nine videos, which can be used in the classroom or as a tool for research and revision, cover a host of topics. Themes include The Origins of Aladdin; Concept to Realisation; Clothes Fit for a Prince; Designing Agrabah; Making Agrabah Dance; Meet the Characters; The Hard-Working Ensemble; The Magic of the Music; Join the Crew.

# Resource 2 – Pre-show workshops

Schools can choose from four practical workshops: Introductory Movement and Music, Spotlight on Acting, Spotlight on Singing, and Spotlight on Dance. Each is adapted to the specific needs and level of expertise of the group. Disney Theatrical Teaching Artists will lead a group through 90 minutes of singing, dancing and acting. All workshops give students the rare opportunity to explore the world of the production and learn content from the show they are about to see.

# Resource 3 - Ideas for the classroom

Prior to your theatre visit, pre-show resources can be freely accessed on the show's education website. These include session ideas and activities that provide a wealth of creative ideas to inspire learning across the curriculum, as well as preparing the group for their trip. Once back at school, there are more post-show session ideas in subject areas such as English, dance and PSHE, which teachers can adapt to suit their schemes of work.







# "SCHOOL OF HARD ROCK"

A new educational project for students, to enlighten and inspire through extensive knowledge of music history. Told by one of the most globally recognized brands.

For more information or to book please contact the sales team +44 (0) 207 514 1700 or email london.reception@hardrock.com

// HARD ROCK PARTNER CONTENT

# The Ambassadors of Rock

Treat your students to a unique educational trip to London's Hard Rock Cafe, to learn what makes this iconic venue tick...

he first ever Hard Rock Cafe opened its doors in London on 14 June 1971, and to this day it's still renowned for spreading the spirit of rock 'n' roll through authentic experiences that rock.

As part of its 2018 projects, Hard Rock London has launched a new educational programme for students. To enlighten and inspire through Hard Rock history, it combines a 45-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A, tour, competition and set lunch. Your group will learn about the cafe's menu, memorabilia, philanthropic endeavours, live music, marketing initiatives and promotions. It can even cater the presentation to the theme of the school trip. Each student will also take away a Hard Rock certificate confirming their attendance and participation at the original Hard Rock.



Hear the story of the birth of Hard Rock's memorabilia collection, which is itself a part of music history. Find out which regular customer asked the staff if he could hang his guitar on the wall to mark his favourite bar stool as "his spot". Then one week later, who sent a package with a note bearing the message, "Mine's as good as his!", starting the trend and now part of over 75,000 pieces worldwide.

# Food in focus

Delve into the cafe's classic but constantly evolving menu and learn about its unique culinary offerings with local flavours and flare. Discover how serious the team at Hard Rock are about serving fresh, handmade classic American food with a Southern flair, and how the menu today is still made by hand, from scratch, with the finest ingredients. Find out about its most popular menu items and ranges, what sets the cafe apart and why it is popular with all age ranges.

# Charitable work

"Rock is Our Differentiator, Philanthropy is Our Soul..." Over the past four decades,





Hard Rock has donated millions of dollars from numerous charitable programmes, fundraising efforts and Ambassador Volunteerism. Learn about its mantras and how it will continue to raise both awareness and funds, benefiting a variety of causes worldwide through the Hard Rock Heals Foundation.

# Take the tour

As part of the programme, students will get to enjoy a tour of the cafe's rock 'n' roll museum. Formerly Coutts Bank and used by the Queen, the Vault used to hold the crown jewels but is now the home to even more valuable pieces! Get up close and personal with some of the most iconic items of memorabilia in Hard Rock's possession,

including handwritten song notes from John Lennon, Jimi Hendrix's prototype Flying V, an acoustic guitar belonging to David Bowie, Wayne Sermon of Imagine Dragons' acoustic guitar, Madonna's basque from her *Vogue* tour and a winter coat belonging to Elvis Presley, to name but a few.

# Book now!

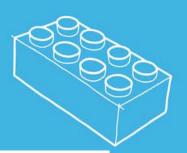
The team at the Hard Rock Cafe are celebrating over 45 years as the Ambassadors of Rock – nowhere else can you experience the spirit of rock music, original memorabilia from iconic artists, classic American cuisine, collectible merchandise and philanthropy. This passion has spread to venues in 75 countries, including 180 cafes, 25 hotels and 11 casinos.



To book an education programme at the Hard Rock Cafe London, contact Magda Lapinska on london.salescoordinator@hardrock.com or call 020 7514 1700.







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# **WE LOVE TO LEARN**

# Creative play and exploration

Invite your children to learn and play at the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort

The LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort's ethos is all about allowing students of all ages to engage and explore through creative and imaginative play. The resort's offer of theme park rides and attractions combined with interactive educational workshops makes it a strong contender for school teachers seeking somewhere engaging to take a school trip.

The resort is an exciting venue for learning outside the classroom and most suitable for Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 pupils – although there are experiences available for those in early years. Schools can use a National Curriculum Map to navigate their way around the resort, making sure they tie in all of their learning objectives whilst they enjoy over 55 rides and attractions.

### ngaging to all of their le

**CURRICULUM LINKS** 



### **MATHS**

Estimating distances and how many LEGO Bricks are used in certain models is an engaging way to bring maths to life in the LEGOLAND Windsor resort.



### **PHYSICS**

Study the different forces used on the rides – push, pull, gravity and the way friction is used or overcome on the many exciting rides and attractions.



### **BIOLOGY**

The Atlantis Submarine Voyage allows students to get up close to aquatic animals. It provides opportunities to explore adaptation, variation and feeding relationships.

# LEARNING JOURNEYS

# Workshop 1 – Time travellers

New for 2018 is the LEGO® Time Traveller workshop, available to Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. This workshop ties in to history. The session explores ancient civilisations from the Stone Age to Roman Britain. Pupils will discover how their characteristics and achievements have influenced modern Britain, with the help of a LEGO® Time Line and an unlimited supply of LEGO® Bricks!

# Workshop 2 – Underwater creatures

Underwater Creatures and Habitats is a science workshop that teaches pupils about the characteristics of underwater creatures and their habitats. In groups, they will build their own underwater creature such as a shark, fish, octopus or crab whilst identifying and ensuring that their chosen design best fits in the chosen habitat

# Workshop 3 – Education stories

Linking to the English and art & design curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 is the LEGO® Education Story Starter session. The aim of this workshop is to spark creativity, boost reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through building scenes with LEGO Bricks and LEGO Minifigures. Schools are encouraged to continue their stories back in the classroom and send them back to LEGOLAND for the team to read and enjoy.



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# Planning an overseas school trip

or educational visit?

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# Take the stress out of STAYING SAFE

Have you planned carefully and assessed the risks? Is your insurance cover up to the task? Here's what to check before you set out on your next adventure...

# TILDEN WATSON

chool trips are a valuable opportunity for learning outside of the classroom, but in many cases they are evolving into much more than a simple day away from the desk. Trips to museums, stately homes and factories remain staples of the curriculum, but increasingly children are now being offered once-in-a-lifetime adventures as part of their education, where they can trek the Great Wall of China, or learn about conservation in an African safari park.

While these trips are exciting, and offer pupils the chance to learn in unique and stimulating locations, the risks posed by taking children to less traditional destinations do exist. We have all read reports of tragic accidents that happen during school trips, and whilst such tragedies are increasingly rare – despite the headlines they generate – the risk exposure of the average trip needs to be kept in proportion with the adventure planned.

# Advance planning

A common misconception when planning school trips involves the application of health and safety laws, which can often discourage teachers from organising such excursions. Many teachers wrongly assume they will face a mountain of paperwork, and fear prosecution if things go wrong. In reality, the growth of this risk-averse attitude alarmed the Health and Safety Executive so much that



it issued a White Paper clearly stating its belief in the value of school trips.

Despite this, good preparation is still essential, but it should not be seen as a barrier in itself. Overseas trips, in particular, require extensive planning, but the associated workload can be lessened by booking with a specialist tour operator that has experience in delivering such trips for schools. Their expertise will ensure that parents, pupils and teachers are aware of what the trip entails, and that they have a well-informed itinerary for the visit.

Getting the right insurance cover is also a key consideration. Schools need to be sure that not only they, but their choice of transport and accommodation

provider, have sufficient cover. Having the correct insurance policy in place ensures that, should the worst happen, you are clearly aware of the extent of coverage and what it supports.

All plans need to be communicated to students and their parents in advance of the trip to make sure everyone has a full understanding of what the excursion will entail. With sensible precautions in place, and a spirit of genuine risk awareness at every level, there's no reason not to venture off the beaten track.

# **Understanding risk**

Zurich Municipal has found that understanding proper risk management is key to achieving this balance, keeping staff confident and students safe. Additionally, the more risk-aware teachers are, the more likely they are to lead adventurous trips.

To encourage this attitude, schools need to provide leadership in the form of a regularly revised Educational Visits Policy and make sure all staff are aware of the document and stick to its recommendations.

It goes without saying that everyone accompanying children off-site needs to be competent, trained and vetted. Teachers leading trips therefore need the skills and confidence to write risk assessments at a level of detail appropriate to the trip and, if necessary, carry out advance visits to assess conditions on the ground.

# The key to success

A good school trip provides pupils with a great range of benefits: from deeper learning, to a greater understanding of the world and an increase in self-confidence. Balancing these benefits with the associated risks is the key to a successful and safe school trip. By planning ahead, maintaining awareness and clearly communicating all plans to parents, a successful school trip can be enjoyed by all!



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# 6 THINGS TO DO AT...

# The Manor House & Ashbury Hotels

With so much on offer, these sport and craft destinations can provide school breaks with something for everyone...

# PLAY & CREATE

The Manor House &
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National Park in Devon,
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# Take part in sports

With four indoor sports halls and three outdoor pitches, including 3G and MUGA sports pitches at Ashbury, visitors can enjoy a range of sports whatever the weather. Team sports include five-a-side, Unihoc, rounders and 'Continuous Cricket'. Racket sports are equally impressive thanks to the 12 tennis courts (including eight indoors), 12 badminton / short tennis courts and two squash courts on offer – plus a PTR / LTA professional coach is on hand for group tennis coaching.

Try something new things and at the Manor House & Ashbury you can do just that. There's an extensive range of activities including archery, air rifle/pistol shooting, laser shooting, indoor bowls, roller skating, ice skating and more. If you're crazy about golf, the Ashbury hotel boasts an unrivalled 99 holes, set in the beautiful Devon countryside, as well as golf coaching

There are two unique craft centres at the Manor House & Ashbury, between them hosting 18 different crafts, giving your group

and practice facilities.



the opportunity to learn new skills and create fantastic products. There are experienced tutors on hand to provide comprehensive instruction and they remain with you to advise throughout the sessions. Tuition is included in your break with only nominal charges being made for materials.

Find time to relax

The hotels' comprehensive range of leisure facilities offer plenty of opportunity for letting your hair down and relaxing after a busy day, whether you fancy a late afternoon swim or an evening in the Games Zones.

Other options include ten-pin bowling, pedal karts, water slides, a soft adventure play area, an adventure golf course and no fewer than three swimming pools.

Enjoy a tasty meal
With so much to try, you're bound to
get hungry. All breaks at the Manor House &
Ashbury Hotels include full board dining as
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meals a day, from check in to check out, featuring a selection of hot and cold options, as well as delicious desserts. The hotels are also able to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements, including vegetarians, vegans, gluten-free diets and more.

Get expert support

You won't be left wondering what to do, or where to go, next. A dedicated schools coordinator and activities team are available to assist you in ensuring your stay runs as smoothly as possible. Tell them the activities that you would like to do, and they will arrange a bespoke programme for you. Plus, once you arrive, the fully trained activity staff will run all your sessions.

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# **5 OF THE BEST**

# HISTORY TRIPS

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Galloway School Tours now has even more to tempt schools. Working in partnership with the International Guild of Battlefield Guides, it has broadened its selection of guided tour itineraries – you can now choose from topics such as Technology in Warfare, Medical Services & Life Behind the Lines, Holocaust in Krakow and the Cold War in Berlin.

Guided tours offer students access to qualified historians who will work with group leaders to enhance their studies – all guides are highly qualified and familiar with working with young people, and will add considerably to the experience.

For more information, visit

www.gallowayschools.com





**Arundel Castle** Arundel Castle provides fantastic opportunities for educational visits. Currently celebrating the 950th anniversary of its initial construction, the castle was founded at the end of the 11th century by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel, and today is the family home of the 18th Duke of Norfolk. Its colourful, near-1,000-year history lends itself to many aspects of the national curriculum, whether your group is in Key Stage 1, 2 or 3. The Arundel Castle Educational Programme has been developed to help students with their study in an informative, enjoyable and memorable way.

For details, call **01903 882173** (ext 240), email **admin@arundelcastle.org** or visit **www.arundelcastle.org** 

PARTNER CONTENT

**Warwick Castle** The experienced education team at Warwick Castle work hard to bring history to life for students, with teaching experts available on the day of your visit to deliver a plethora of curriculum-linked tours, talks and workshops. Make the trip and your pupils will be provided with a fantastic learning-outside-the-classroom-experience as they discover the story of the castle's survival through 1,100 years of incredible (and often bloodthirsty!) history to become the much-loved historical landmark it is today.

For more information, call 0871 222 2772, email Education@ warwick-castle.com or visit www.warwick-castle.com





**English Heritage** 

Bring your classroom outdoors and stand in the places where history happened with the help of a trip to one of English Heritage's portfolio of 400 properties. The diverse locations can help you cover multiple time periods, themes and key stages -- you can inspire your students and enhance your teaching of the new curriculum with explorations of periods as diverse as the Stone Age and the Cold War.

To book a free self-led visit, or a hands-on, expert-led Discovery Visit for just £100 per class per session, call 0370 333 0606, email bookeducation@ english-heritage.org.uk or visit english-heritage.org. uk/educationonlinebooking

**Beamish** At Beamish, students can engage in a real-life setting and, by asking real people, gain a deeper understanding than that offered by a textbook. Its active learning experiences encompass investigation of both facts about the past and also attitudes. Students must think critically, weigh evidence, make informed decisions and develop perspective in activities such as Medicine Through Time, Joe the Quilter Murder, Suffragettes on the High Street, Mayday Mayday, and the Somme. They must stand up and make their opinions known, argue, analyse and act out becoming informed, independent investigators.

For details, call **0191 370 4011**, email education@beamish.org.uk or visit www.beamish.org.uk/learning



# Warwick Castle

Step back in time and walk in the footsteps of William the Conqueror

### **BEFORE YOU VISIT**

Celebrate Warwick Castle's 950th anniversary by letting your students get hands-on with the past. Get in touch by email to request free teaching resources linked to your visit.

Battle skills workshop
Your pupils will learn how a range of tactics and strategies were used to overcome opponents, and learn the art of sword fighting whilst utilising different techniques that were employed over the course of

history from a Warwick Castle Swordsman.

Meet the Monarchy
This tour takes in and chronicles the
Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest
as well as exploring the importance of

Free coach parking

\*Excludes The Castle Dungeon

 Free teacher planning tickets for two (visit before your school trip)

William I, Henry VII, Charles I and Queen Victoria, showing what they looked like and highlighting the famous characteristics they possessed.

The Conqueror's fortress

Brand new for 2018, climb and explore one of the castle's oldest features, built by William the Conqueror. With immersive Bayeux tapestry-style storytelling with interactive elements, pupils will discover why the spot was chosen as a defensive point.

The mighty trebuchet
Pupils can witness the largest working siege machine in the world! They will be amazed as it launches a projectile more than 150 feet into the air, and will discover how it was used to besiege castles and fortresses!



Visit the Great Hall and staterooms, and see how the castle has evolved throughout history. Have a look at the waxwork models, the suits of armour and the plethora of medieval weaponry on display!

www.warwick-castle.com

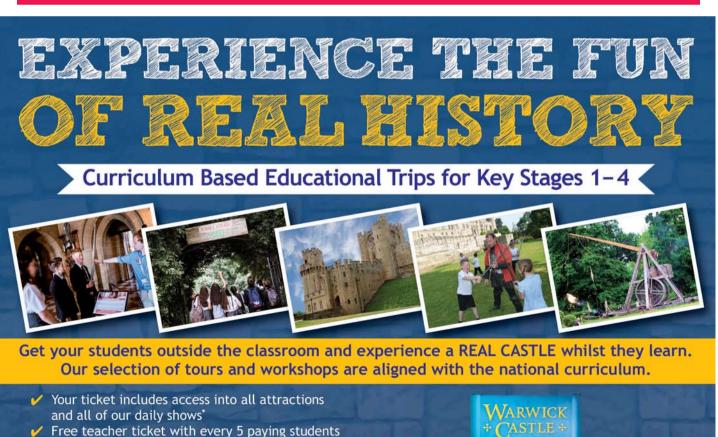
T: 0871 222 2772

E: Education@warwick-castle.com

Email Education@warwick-castle.com

Or call 0871 222 2772" visit warwick-castle.com

\*\*Calls cost 13p per minute from a BT landline plus network extras



# Something for everyone

Looking for a day visit or residential break? Kingswood offers affordable and unforgettable experiences...

# **BUILD YOUR PROGRAMME**

Kingswood offers an innovative tool to help you create the perfect adventure for your group, select learning outcomes and view sample itineraries.

Choose your location

With nine UK activity centres, plus a chateau in France, Kingswood is a great choice no matter where your school is located. Whichever option you choose, you will be greeted by a dedicated team who will make sure that your stay is unforgettably fun.

2 Customise your visit
You can select the overarching theme of your residential trip (be it environmental

field studies, life skills or pure adventure!) then, by 'adding on' your chosen learning outcomes, you'll tailor your stay – from team-building and communication to activities focusing on self-confidence.

Enhance your curriculum

Kingswood's trips have been created to complement both primary and secondary curriculums. Your students will learn valuable transferable skills that they can apply back to classroom learning, whatever their age.

Visit from abroad

Kingswood experiences help international students improve their English as well as their life skills. In fact, 91% of international visitors said their residential was 'fun and interesting', and 88% said they could speak more English

after their visit (based on a survey of 2,243 international students who stayed at Kingswood in 2017).

Keeps parents informed Parents can access a range of di

Parents can access a range of different information and guides to put their minds at ease about your school trip – from sample menus and packing lists, to a safeguarding guide, Kingswood has students' wellbeing covered.

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- Field Studies
- <sup>22</sup> residential centres in the UK, France and Spain



Choose the best, choose PGL!

# 6 THINGS TO DO AT... PGT



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# DID YOU KNOW?

PGL was established in 1957 and continues to create exciting adventure programmes for young people at its residential adventure centres in the UK, France and Spain.

Multy-Activity

Realise your students' potential with an adventure in the great outdoors. With over 50 adventure activities to choose from, PGL Multi-Activity courses are designed to help students develop a range of skills as well as promoting team building, self-confidence, motivation and resilience. From abseiling and climbing to raft building and zipwire, a Multi-Activity course brings out the best in young people and is available at 15 residential PGL centres in the UK.

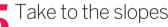
Piver and Sea
The natural progression from a
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adventure experience. The Mediterranean
Watersports course introduces students to
an exciting range of high adrenalin activities
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Adventure programme includes the classic
canoe descent of the Ardèche Gorge with
the option to spend a night by the river
under the stars.





Sports Weekends
PGL's residential weekends for football
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PGL study Courses offer curriculum-linked programmes in geography, maths, science and computing for KS3 students, plus geography, geology, and biology and environmental science up to A level. Field studies take place at PGL centres at two of the finest locations in the UK – the Isle of Wight and the Jurassic Coast. In addition, PGL's Revision Weekends take students away from the distractions of home and school in order to focus on specific topics – ideal for pre-exam brainstorming.



With a wide choice of carefully selected resorts and hotels across Europe and in the US, PGL Ski offers the best in school skiing and snowboarding. You'll receive expert advice from knowledgeable advisors who create a package designed to meet your specific requirements, and, once you arrive at your chosen resort, you'll enjoy the support of a PGL Ski Representative dedicated to your group for the duration of your stay.

Discover France

When it comes to learning a language, nothing beats talking and listening to native speakers in their own country. A PGL trip to France is a great way for students to improve their spoken and written French as well as being a valuable cultural experience in its own right. There are three PGL residential centres in northern France and plenty of excursions and visits to choose from.

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# Trouble-free TRANSPORTATION

No matter the trip, you'll need to get your group to where they want to go safely and on time. *TST* asked Eurotunnel's coach travel expert, **Tracy Bayliss**, for her advice on where to start...

he focus on any school trip is the destination – its potential to engage and educate children, its suitability for the age group, its cost... But just as crucial to the endeavour (and just as likely to inspire sleepless nights in stressed organisers) is the group's means of transport – or, to put it another way, how do we shuttle a group of excited pupils to and from the venue, on time and without exposing them to undue risk?

The bad news is that, given the variables involved, there's no single answer to the school trip transportation question, but once you know your destination, you can quickly start to home in on the solution you need – and by following some simple steps, you can be confident that the experience will go off without a hitch.

# Safety first

While cost will be a factor to keep in mind, the health and safety of pupils and teachers alike must always be the primary consideration when sourcing transportation. Eurotunnel's Tracy Bayliss tells us that's the case whether you are planning a short trip down the road, a day out in London, or an expedition to mainland Europe or even further afield. The risk assessments may change, but the emphasis won't.

Taking into account the makeup of your group and where you need to get to, the first decision you will need to make is whether you will take on the burden of



organising transport yourself or whether you will approach a 'school operator' that offers an all-inclusive service. "Some schools prefer to approach an operator and let everything be done for them as a package," Tracy explains. "Generally, if you're planning a ski trip, or something that will involve some sort of activity, you'd let an operator plan it for you. But some schools like to package tours themselves - or, if they're not going far, may even decide to use public transport or hire a minibus."

Whichever route you go down, it's important to have confidence that the transport provided will be of a suitable standard. Happily, this needn't be stressful: "If you're approaching an operator, check to see if they're part of the School Travel Forum (STF), ATOL protected or

ABTA bonded – if they are, you know that they're a registered company," Tracy says. "But even if they're not part of the STF, all coach companies have to carry out extensive risk assessments to carry groups anyway – it's a legal requirement. Many operators will be audited by the local education authority, and schools can do audit checks or request certification too, to satisfy themselves that they are a suitable choice."

If you are still having difficulty deciding between options, don't ignore the value of a positive recommendation or past experience, Tracy adds: "Have you travelled with someone before? Has another school or teacher recommended a company to you because they've done a good job?" Good reputations don't exist without reason.

# En route

Once the transport has been booked and the itinerary set, keep in mind how you are going to manage the journeys themselves. "Make sure you have enough responsible adults to keep things running smoothly," Tracy says. "When you're stopping at services – and make sure you do so regularly, because otherwise children get a bit fidgety! – you need to have enough people to keep everybody safe and where they need to be on time.

"Remember, too, that it's really hard for coach drivers to meet their deadlines for border control and shuttle or ferry check-in times – they're under a lot of pressure. You don't know what's going to happen on the road sometimes, and delays can be very frustrating, but always try to be patient.

"Finally, make sure you've got something to keep students occupied during the journey – DVDs are a good idea, but let them choose what they want if you don't want complaints – and in the highly unlikely event of a breakdown, be prepared for the children to be on their phones to their parents before you've had a chance to deal with it!"



This article was written in consultation with Tracy Bayliss, Business Manager

for UK Coach at Eurotunnel. To discover the latest initiatives streamlining the journeys of school coach parties on Le Shuttle, visit eurotunnel.com



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# **WE'RE THE EXPERTS**

# "Bringing the past to life"

Your pupils can stand in the places where history really happened, explains English Heritage's Rachel Hudson – and it won't cost you a penny

# Why should schools visit English Heritage sites?

The historic places in our care span an incredible six thousand years and include palaces, castles, abbeys, Roman forts and even secret underground tunnels. Visiting an English Heritage site allows learners of all ages to delve into England's story by standing in the places where history really happened, bringing the stories of the past to life.

# What sets your venues apart?

Our sites provide an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of a host of significant historical figures – and all for free! We offer free entry to all of our sites for pre-booked learning groups. Learners can also enhance their visit by taking part in our hands-on Discovery Visits, which are expert-led workshops available at selected sites and only cost £100 per class. These sessions have been designed to meet the needs of different age groups and abilities, and are linked to curriculum study.

# How do you like to work with visiting groups?

Free education visits to our sites are self-led, but a big part of my job involves working closely with schools to make sure their visit is as special as possible. We really recommend adding a hands-on Discovery Visit to your trip and getting in touch directly about how we can enhance your visit or by taking part in one of our projects. In Kent, for example, we have a variety of different projects we run for schools including an art competition at Walmer Castle for KS4–5 students and LEGO activity days at Dover Castle for KS2.



# **EXPERT PROFILE**

Name: Rachel Hudson Job title: Education Visits Officer Kent, Sussex and Surrey Area of expertise: Heritage learning Best part of my job: Seeing history brought to life

# What feedback have you had from schools?

We really value all feedback we receive from the teachers who visit our sites, and we use this to influence new resources and programmes, ensuring that everything we do is tailored to the needs of visiting groups. Feedback from students is always incredibly important as well. We have some breathtaking places in our care and we have frequently had comments from students saying that their trip was "the best day of their life!" showing how visiting an English Heritage property is more than learning about facts and dates – it is about giving students a fantastic experience and sparking a passion for heritage inside them that will last a lifetime.

# What support can you offer ahead of the visit?

As well as free entry to all English Heritage sites, teachers are eligible for 20% off guidebooks, access to free downloadable resources and a free planning visit ahead of visiting the site with their group. We provide all the tools teachers need to make a visit to one of our places as unique and memorable as possible!

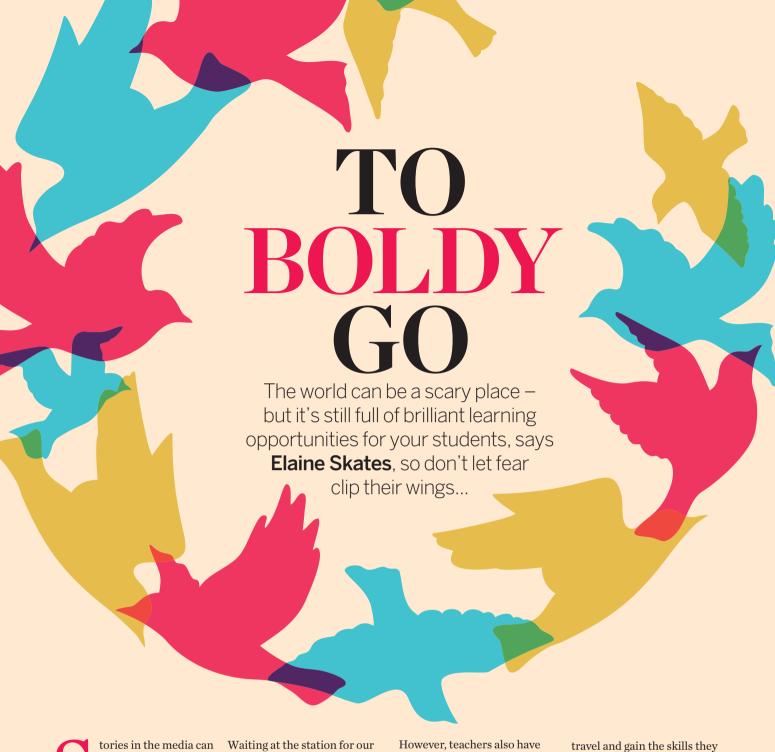
# **ASK ME ABOUT**

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have a big impact on our perceptions of risk, so it is understandable that the threat of terrorism has added to the list of concerns parents, students and teachers must address when planning educational visits abroad. This Easter I took my family on a long-awaited trip to Paris, two days after the Brussels airport attacks. Of course, the incident gave me pause for thought. None of us would put our own children, or other young people in our care, into harm's way for the sake of a fun holiday, and such shocking events cannot fail to have an impact on our perceptions of safety when travelling outside the UK.

train, a fellow traveller confided that she had also weighed up the risks and benefits of her trip to the London museums with her two young daughters that day - but concluded, as I had, that rationally the chances of being caught up in a terrorist attack were highly remote and certainly no greater than the risks of a road accident en route to the Cotswolds for an alternative day out in the English countryside.

Teachers organising educational visits have the added pressure and responsibility of keeping a large group of other people's children safe - and reassuring anxious parents to boot.

a responsibility to prepare young people for life and work. Most of us have a thirst for exploration. In our shrinking world young people will travel alone for work and holidays - for teenagers that may only be a year or two away. As they stretch their wings, they will need the skills to negotiate a foreign city, be diligent in unfamiliar environments and have the resourcefulness to overcome any cultural or language barriers they may encounter. The reality is that with a competent visit leader and careful planning there is no safer context than an educational visit to enable pupils to experience overseas

will need in later life.

# Adventures and opportunities

The teaching of the curriculum can be enormously enriched by studying geographical and historical characteristics that can't be seen in the UK, immersing students in a language or culture, or understanding other people's lives and beliefs thorough first-hand experience. There is also a wealth of research which clearly demonstrates that residential learning (whether in the UK or overseas) can

improve pupils' resilience, raise attainment, increase engagement in learning and improve relationships. As Learning Away's Peter Carne explains, "It offers an opportunity for pupils to improve relationships with their peers and with staff, increase resilience and experience a new environment. If young people don't get a residential experience, they miss out."

When making decisions about whether to run educational visits overseas it is helpful to balance the potential risks against the benefits for students. Educational visits should be planned with clear learning objectives in mind in order to meet students' specific learning needs and to embed and reinforce learning back in school. Once it has been established that a trip can be justified through risk/benefit analysis, the visit leader should plan sensible and proportionate measures to minimise any risks identified. If the benefits do not outweigh the risks then clearly. the visit should not be signed off!

"Well-planned educational visits are very safe," says David Scourfield, chair of the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel, before going on to explain the importance of having the right people involved. "The visit leader should be experienced and competent in this type of trip. Typically he or she will have served an 'apprenticeship' under a more experienced member of staff. It is also important to ensure that the staffing includes someone who can communicate effectively in the

country being visited, and who understands the local culture."

Schools can gain assurance by choosing a provider holding the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. This national accreditation helps schools identify organisations offering good quality and safe educational experiences. "By booking through an LOtC Quality-Badged provider the school can be assured that the operator will constantly review up-to-date information in the particular area and country to which the group is travelling," explains Gill Harvey, of the School Travel Forum. "Their suppliers in these locations will be up to date with any changes locally. The Tour Operator will also be planning and running numerous groups and have experience and insightful knowledge to help keep their customers safe when travelling through ports and to overseas destinations.

"If anything should ever go wrong, the tour operator will be able to support the group through their local relationships and through their teams back in the office. This is a great bonus when group leaders have to deal with the unexpected."

Elaine Skates is chief executive of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (lotc.org.uk).

### 10 TOP TIPS FOR PLANNING **EDUCATIONAL VISITS OVERSEAS**

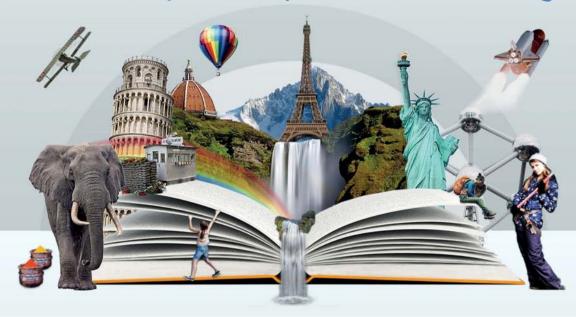
The following checklist has been put together in consultation with the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and the School Travel Forum:

- 1. Ensure you have an experienced visit leader. The visit leader should ensure that robust emergency procedures are in place, and these are shared with the staff team. Remember that mobile phones are not always reliable and ensure that contingency funds can be accessed in an emergency.
- 2. Consult the Foreign Commonwealth Office Travel Advice for the country you intend to visit at an early stage of planning for the trip, as well as closer to the departure date in case of any late security changes to the country being visited.
- 3. Work out how many staff are needed to run the visit, and then consider adding another staff member to the staff team for contingency purposes.
- 4. Ensure that all those travelling have adequate travel insurance. Check that medical repatriation and specific or unusual activities are covered as well as cancellation in the event of Foreign Office advice not to travel. If the trip is in Europe, ensure that all those travelling have valid European Health Insurance Cards (apply well in advance through the HSE website).
- 5. Check passport and visa requirements well in advance. Ensure that everyone has a valid passport and that the passports have adequate time left on them before they expire (some countries require passports to have at least six months left on them from the date of planned departure). If visas are required, leave sufficient time to make the necessary applications.
- 6. Designate and brief a contact back at school who can be available 24/7 to coordinate all communications in an emergency. Ensure they have access to all of the visit planning and details, including the contact details for the families of all those travelling with you.
- 7. If a student requires medication, ensure that they bring an adequate supply, along with a photocopy of the prescription so they can show it at the airport if required, or use it to get re-supplied should their baggage be lost.
- 8. Encourage young people to be aware of their surroundings and avoid using mobile devices whilst moving through public areas.
- 9. Save the contact details for the relevant embassy or consulate in advance and have them with you.
- 10. Consider using providers holding the LOtC Quality Badge wherever possible to ensure quality, safety and effective support in an emergency.

Comprehensive guidance for those involved in planning and leading foreign visits is available from the Outdoor



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# **OUR BIG DAY OUT**

# We were able to show all sides of the choir"

How Halsbury Travel helped Ackworth School plan an unforgettable music tour to Tuscany











# Creating community spirit

The main aim of the tour for me was to make the members of the choir really feel like they belong in the school's singing community. I also really wanted them to feel pride in what they do. Tuscany was a good choice for our tour because we've had really good audiences when we've sung to promote the choir. You don't expect this many people to come to see you, but it was amazing.

# Diverse performance experiences

We chose the venues we performed in because they offer a real contrast. Our first concert was at the Basilica Santa Assunta in Montecatini Terme, where we got to sing some of our sacred repertoire. We also sang at the Mercantia Festival in Certaldo Alto, on one of the sought-after outdoor slots, where we went for a more pop gospel-type sound. So we were able to show all sides of the choir.

# Cultural exploration

I chose Tuscany because I really wanted to come here myself! But, actually, it was so easy to sell to the pupils because there's lots you can do there. The weather is fantastic and there's just so much culture to soak up in this part of Italy. We had a really nice walking trip around Florence, which is in itself an open-air museum. And we took part in a local street theatre festival too!

# Enjoyable for all

It's been amazing and Halsbury have been really supportive and helpful to me. They tailored the tour to meet our exact needs. I suppose one thing you're always looking for when booking these trips is a good deal – they always manage to find a way to do things for a good price. But it's not just that. When you're away on tour they're there every step of the way to really support you.

# { THE STORY CONTINUES }

For me, the main benefit of a music tour is to enjoy spending some time together as a choir, away from a school environment. We worked so hard, with so many rehearsals through the winter months when it was cold, dark and rainy.

What kept us going was the idea of being in the beautiful sunshine in Tuscany in the summer, sharing our efforts with others and exploring another country. The whole experience was a really positive bonding opportunity for us.

We'll never forget our performance at the Mercantia festival – the atmosphere was electric and the reception incredible, and it was also our last performance together, as I joined a new school in September. I'd recommend Halsbury to anyone.

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Abbe West, Head of Life Skills, Northbridge House School









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# **WE LOVE TO LEARN**

# Being true to your identity

Explore gender, relationships and their role in self-esteem

Featuring songs by Grammy- and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, and a "superbly written book" (Hollywood News) by Harvey Fierstein, Jerry Mitchell's dynamic production Kinky Boots is all about the friendships we discover and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind.

Aside from offering students and teachers alike a fantastic day out, the show

is supported by an extensive education programme, suitable for KS3 and above, that explores themes of acceptance, diversity and the ability to 'just be' who you want to be. The free resources on offer have been specifically designed for teachers to enhance lessons before and after their visit, and can be used to support studies in drama, PSHE, English and SMSC.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS**



### DRAMA

This is a performance that will stimulate students' imaginations in terms of how costume, lighting and set can be used to communicate character and setting.



## **PSHE**

The show enables students to recognise a variety of different types of relationships and what needs to be done to create a safe, supportive and respectful environment.



# SMSC

Links to the SMSC requirements are strong – there's plenty of room to discuss tolerance, diversity, goal-setting, resilience and self-acceptance (to name a few).

www.kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk

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# LEARNING JOURNEYS

# Pre-show activity: Identity & Self-Reflection

Learning about personal identity and being able to express who you are without fear of reprisal, bullying or ridicule is a vital aspect of positive wellbeing and health. In *Kinky Boots*, students learn that being who you are and true to your self-identity makes for a productive, happy and meaningful life. In this pre-show activity, they will look in detail at how to recognise personal strengths, and how doing so affects self-confidence and self-esteem.

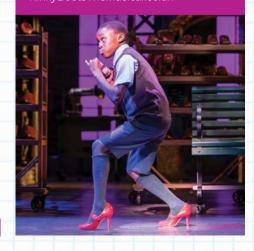
### Post-show activity: Defining Gender Terms

This activity explores the difference between sex, gender identity and sexual orientation and the terms associated with each. Students are invited to discuss the differences between each and the way different societies respond to homosexuality. They will also consider how gender identity is expressed in different ways, and how knowledge of this complex issue can help to promote tolerance.

# Post-show activity: Relationships

The positive relationships explored through the story of *Kinky Boots* demonstrate constructive interactions, connectedness and feelings of belonging and genuine support that in real life are essential for a person's health and positive wellbeing. In this activity students discuss the relationship of central characters Charlie and Lola, then go on to look at friendship in more general terms.

Download the free PSHE education pack and other education resources at KinkyBootsTheMusical.co.uk



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volcanoes, to glaciers and magnificent waterfalls. They will travel to Vik and the South Coast and then on to Gullfoss, before ending their journey with a relaxing soak in the Blue Lagoon. Every hotel and restaurant is carefully vetted to make sure your expectations are met, and WorldStrides will work with you every step of the way to make sure your experience is a smooth one.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS**



### **MATHS**

Students learn how business is literally growing thanks to Hveragerdi's abundant greenhouses. Where the tectonic plates converge, so do industries that boost the economy.



### ART

Students explore
Dyrholaey's black sand
beaches, used in Star
Wars: Rogue One, and
determine how the basalt
rock formations inspired
the design of Iceland's
iconic church.

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### **ECONOMICS**

In Gulfoss, students examine the economic impact of capturing Iceland's natural energy resources and how doing so can affect the financial welfare of the local population.

# E: info@worldstrides.co.uk

# LEARNING JOURNEYS

# Location 1 - Gulfoss

Students visiting Gulfoss, 'the Golden Falls', have a bird's-eye view of Iceland's unique geography. As students traverse the paths to the waterfall, they will compare erosion processes, experience waterfall formations and explore the unusual gorge below to UK waterfalls. They will evaluate tourism's environmental impact, how climate and glacial distribution affect the falls' energy level, and the precautions visitors can take to safely navigate the waterfall's bazards

# Location 2 - Hveragerdi

Where else can students cook eggs, make geothermal bread and have a hot mud foot bath but in Hveragerdi's Geothermal Park? The town is small, but it has the highest concentration of greenhouses in Iceland, and students can discover that no matter the weather, horticulture thrives. Studying plate tectonics allows students to determine why Hveragerdi is prone to earthquakes (then they can feel the earth move in an earthquake simulator!).

### Location 3 – Dyrholaey

Take out the binoculars and witness the erratic antics of puffins in their cliff colonies. Examine first-hand the effects of wave erosion and weathering along the coastal cliff face. By spending time on the black sand beaches, students can make direct comparisons to the compositions of other coastal areas they've explored. There's more to discover beneath the waves, like the submarine volcanic eruptions that



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# Are you ready for your RESIDENTIAL?

It's hard to overstate the benefits of taking your students away for the week – just make sure you get them their money's worth, says **Perry Sladen...** 

well-organised residential school trip is often a life-changing experience for students, one that they will remember for the rest of their school days and beyond. If you're considering taking the plunge my advice is to get on with it, but don't just take my word for it – here are a few of the benefits your students will enjoy as well as some tips on ensuring the residential you receive is right for you...

The educational rationale

to improved self-esteem, enthusiasm for learning and positive attitudes that translate into more motivated and higher-achieving students. A ski trip or canoeing expedition, sailing, trekking and many other outdoor activities push students a little further from their everyday experience. Taking part is all about learning new skills in an unfamiliar environment - such activities may even provide the spark students need to pursue a new sport or pastime. But

beyond this, it is the invaluable confidence and renewed self-belief they create in the long term that are perhaps of the greatest benefit.

That's not to dismiss
the importance of the
more immediately tangible
educational benefits, of
course. School trips can
support specific subjects or
broad areas of the curriculum
– through field trips, for
example, which help students
fulfil specific coursework
objectives, while if you choose

to take students abroad, there are clear opportunities for developing linguistic and cultural awareness. Key Stage 3 pupils are far more likely to be inspired to take French or geography to GCSE once they have had the chance to explore and apply their subject in the real world.

# Away from home

For many young people, the experience of spending time together, being away from home and taking responsibility for



themselves is, in itself, a steep learning curve. When sharing rooms, students must take care of their own possessions, respect others' belongings and take a mature approach to personal hygiene. At mealtimes they have to make decisions about food – it often happens that students who start off having chips with everything for their first few meals develop a taste for healthier menu options and start to experience new tastes for the first time, just one example of a growing maturity.

The whole experience of being away from home with their peers is an ideal opportunity for young people to develop independence and strengthen relationships – with each other and with the members of staff on the trip.

### Back at school

And this is only the beginning – students return to school after residential trips with the new confidence they've acquired, fresh motivation to succeed and a new-found belief in themselves and what they can accomplish. It is often noticed that classroom relationships improve as students reflect on their own achievements

and those of their peers, while teachers can refer back to elements of the trip and encourage students to bring the same can-do attitude into the classroom. Improvements in communication skills, coping skills and personal organisation are common observations, too.

Last but not least, from a teacher's point of view, organising and running a school trip can help towards the development of your own career and afford opportunities to improve your relationships with students and colleagues.

# **Getting started**

So, with all these benefits to be gained, isn't it time you thought of running a residential trip? Here are some key considerations to think about before you start.

### Should I go it alone?

If it's the first time you have organised a residential (and even if you've done it lots of times before) it is simply good practice to arrange your trip through a reputable company. With so many things to consider – from educational content and health and safety, to support for parents and financial security – it makes sense to book with a provider that specialises in school travel.

**How do I choose a provider?** Ask around. Speak to colleagues or teachers from nearby schools

### MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

Before you commit yourself (and parents' money) to a residential, it's important to make some basic checks...

### **Learning outcomes**

- Will your specific learning objectives be taken into account? Can you discuss the exact content of your trip
- Does your provider have the facilities to ensure that all students can participate in the most popular and exciting activities?
- What does your provider plan for your group in the evenings?

### Quality

- Is the accommodation of a suitable standard? (Are there en suite rooms? Can teachers be accommodated close by their group, for example?)
- Is everything you need included in the quoted price?
- Does your provider have the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, which indicates it is fulfilling industry recommendations for the highest-quality school travel?

### **Safeguards**

- Will you receive enough free places for teachers and any accompanying adults?
- If you are travelling abroad, is the cost of the trip protected from currency fluctuations?
- Is the company fully ABTA bonded, or, if it involves flying, ATOL protected?

about who they have used, then spend some time talking to your preferred option before you travel to make sure you have agreed your planned objectives and outcomes – and that appropriate support, activities, visits, follow-up and so on are available to you.

### Try before you buy

You wouldn't buy a car without a test drive, would you? Probably not. The best providers offer free teacher preview visits to their centres, where you can meet the staff teams, inspect the accommodation and facilities, and even have a go on some of the activities for yourself. A good provider will also let you

bring your partner and children with you. Preview visits should also be open to key decision makers such as heads and governors – what better way to get the green light for your trip?



Perry Sladen is UK centres director at PGL Travel Ltd, which runs

adventure programmes and curriculum-linked courses at centres across the UK, France and Spain as well as ski programmes in Europe and the USA. Find out more at www.pgl.co.uk

good pro

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Kingswood Founded over 30 years ago, Kingswood is an multi-awardwinning operator of residential education and adventure centres across the UK and France, offering educationally rich activity breaks for schools and groups. Each Kingswood centre provides a safe environment for a varied selection of more than 60 indoor and outdoor activities and learning opportunities, ranging from kayaking and abseiling to problem-solving and curriculum-linked sessions. Its tailor-made programmes focus on a selection of learning outcomes, designed to achieve objectives from team building to personal development through the use of adventure activities. For more information, visit kingswood.co.uk



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# The Manor House & Ashbury Hotels

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Many schools return year after year to help their students build confidence, develop team-building skills, experience an array of activities and, most importantly, have a great time! To find out more, call **0800 955 0242** or visit **sportscraftandgolfhotels.com** 



Whatever subject you wish to focus on, Halsbury Travel can tailor-make a tour to meet your school's specific requirements – and if you want to arrange music tours, ski trips or sports tours, that's no problem either. Founded by a former teacher with experience of leading numerous visits abroad, and thus well aware of the support schools need, Halsbury promises to take on all of the hard work that goes into planning a trip and offers help every step of the way, so that you can enjoy your trip as much as your students.

For more information, call **0115 940 4303** or visit **www.halsbury.com** 

PGL's Year Group Bonding course is a great way to kick off a new school year, allowing students to get to know each other and their teachers by enjoying exciting adventure activities such as raft building, canoeing, zip wire and trapeze. Spending time together, away from school in a fun environment helps to forge relationships while improving self-confidence, team cohesion and motivation.

The course is available at 16 PGL centres across the UK and autumn 2018 prices start at £84+VAT per person. For details, visit www.pgl.co.uk/ygb and to book, call 0333 321 2106 or email schools@pgl.co.uk





# Stubbers Adventure Centre

Based on a picturesque 130-acre site, Stubbers
Adventure Centre is a registered not-for-profit organisation
that has helped hundreds of schools provide students with the
opportunity to develop social and interpersonal skills and build
confidence through participation in adventurous activities.
The centre offers water sports, including kayaking, jet skiing,
sailing and raft building, as well as activities such as archery,
fencing, orienteering, laser tag and rifle shooting. 'The Towers'
section, meanwhile, offers climbing, abseiling, high ropes and zip
wire, and motorsports including quad bikes and 4x4 driving.

Find out more about its School Special Programmes at www.stubbers.co.uk/lotc or call 01708 224 753.







Experts at delivering outdoor education and adventure for more than 40 years, Essex Outdoors provides high-quality learning opportunities to schools and youth groups, from activity days through to residential experiences and adventurous expeditions. Its four centres in Essex offer a wide range of activities – from aerial trekking, canoeing and climbing to mountain biking, obstacles courses and sailing – and with great transport links to London and the Eastern region, Essex Outdoors is the perfect choice for your

For details, call **0345 200 4220** or visit **www.essexoutdoors.com** 

great value, too.

outdoor needs. Its competitive prices mean

Manor House Activity & Development Centre

The Manor House Activity & Development Centre is an independently owned and run, family-orientated centre offering personal attention and high-quality school trips. It offers an alternative to large centres, providing sole occupancy for your group.

The Manor House provides exceptionally high levels of safety, individualised tailored programmes and enthusiasm from a highly qualified professional team. The accommodation is onsite within the fabulous 18th century building while activities take place at stunning locations throughout the local area. To take advantage of its current special offer of 10% off for all new school group bookings, quote TST18.

 ${\rm Visit}\, \textbf{manoractivity} \textbf{centre.co.uk/schools.htm}$ 



Rock UK
Rock UK provides secondary school trips that include challenging outdoor education activities that help boost self-esteem. Its four nationwide centres support the development of young people through kayaking, orienteering, gorge walking and caving, and it offers bursary places for those who would otherwise be left behind.

A trip to Rock UK covers many areas of the curriculum, including PSHE, SMSC, maths, geography, science, RE and many more. The experience can be tailored to meet your learning outcomes, whether you come for a day visit or stay for a full week.

To find out more, visit www.Rockuk.org





# Unique experiences, extraordinary residentials

Whatever your subject and whatever your desired learning objectives, when you choose YHA School Trips you can be assured of a safe, fulfilling and unforgettable residential that will stay with students long after their coach journey home.

Our flexible approach sets us apart from many residential providers. Offering self-led or organised trips our residentials are tailor-made to meet the educational needs of your students and designed to offer engaging and exciting ways to inspire, motivate and challenge every member of your group.

We are YHA. We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure. Because where you go changes who you become. stay | join | give | volunteer

- Full board stays from £26 per night\*
- 130+ locations across England & Wales
- Over 70 LOtC accredited sites and counting
- A wide range of properties from 10s to 100s of beds
- Sole use hostels available
- Free planning visits and free leader places
- Support available

# 6 REASONS TO CHOOSE

# YHA



Discover affordable, curriculum-linked residentials in stunning locations across England and Wales

# DID YOU KNOW?

YHA has been helping young people to explore, learn and relax the length and breadth of England and Wales for over 80 years.

Flexible options
YHA works with teachers and experts in their field to offer a range of fully flexible residential options that are ideal for school groups of all shapes, sizes and abilities. Whether you are looking for a base for self-led adventures, a National Curriculum-linked package with activities delivered for you, or an adrenaline-fuelled action adventure course, YHA has it all, and a little bit more for good measure.

2 LOtC accreditation
YHA has been enriching the lives of young people since 1930, so you can trust its team to provide you with expert guidance on how to plan a residential that is perfectly tailored to your needs. Plus, over 70 of YHA sites have LOtC accreditation and counting, the most of any provider in the UK, so you can be confident that you are making the right choice for your educational school trip.





Your students will relish the opportunity to escape the classroom for a few days and experience hands-on adventures. YHA residentials provide the ideal environment for groups to get into the fresh air, explore the great outdoors and engage in a wide range of activities, many of which they may not ordinarily be able to try – from climbing and caving, to canoeing and kayaking.

# £xtraordinary residentials

Because they are based upon high-quality residentials YHA school trips can play a key role in igniting your students' passion, enthusiasm and desire for learning. They lead to positive outcomes such as increased resilience, improved self-confidence, better social relationships, and educational achievement, among many others. Staff witness first-hand the benefits that these residentials have on students who stay with YHA – why not discover what your group will gain from the experience?



YHA school trips are offered with full-board overnight stays, priced from just £26 per person for self-led stays at some truly stunning locations across England and Wales, and so represent a truly affordable option. On top of that YHA may be able to meet the full cost of trips for children with challenging lives, so be sure to speak to its team to discuss your group and its needs.

Transforming Lives

When you choose YHA, you're helping change young lives for the better. The children and young people that stay with YHA get the chance to explore England & Wales, meet new friends, try different activities and grow through experiences of adventure and discovery. Because YHA is a charity, it invests all the money it makes into creating opportunities for people from all backgrounds to experience amazing places, share extraordinary journeys and discover a different path through life.

Because where you go wha changes who you become

www.groups.yha.org.uk T: 0800 0195 465 E: groupreservations@yha.org









# **GET IN TOUCH**



tours@equity.co.uk

www.equity.co.uk

Message on instant chat

f /equitytours

# ENHANCING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE

Since 1933, we have been providing exciting and memorable tours for schools, colleges and other institutions, covering a range of curriculum focused subjects, sports and ski trips.

Whether you want to explore the bustling streets of New York, remember the fallen at Normandy or discover Barcelona's distinct architecture – our team of travel advisors and destination specialists will offer you help and guidance from start to finish, ensuring your school trip runs smoothly and is a great success.







### **Educational Tours**

Engaging trips for every subject, from Geography in Iceland to Art & Design in New York City. In partnership with the Institute of Education, we have been selected by the Government to deliver the First World War Centenary Battlefields Tour Programme.

### Ski Trips

Equity handpick all resorts for their suitability to UK school groups: the size of the ski area, the difficulty of the skiing, quality and location of our accommodation, distance from the UK or major airports and the range of evening activities are all considered to ensure we offer the complete package for your group.

### **Sports Tours**

Equity are proud to have partnered with prestigious clubs, national federations in the UK and internationally, to provide sports tours that focus on the development of young people.

### Watersports & Outdoor Adventure

Equity provide a wide range of water-based activities such as kayaking, canoeing, swimming, water rafting, sailing and much more, challenging young people and building confidence by stepping out of their comfort zones and succeeding.

### Performing Arts & Music tours

Dance, drama and music workshops that nurture talent and inspire performances. From workshops, theatre shows and international concerts, students can perform and learn at iconic venues. Equity also offer trips for all types of youth music groups including concert bands, choirs and ensembles.













# **WE LOVE TO LEARN**

# Broadening young minds

Step out of the classroom and create a life-changing learning experience

Travel broadens the mind, which is why the opportunity to experience different countries and cultures in a way that reflects academic work can be such an important part of a student's education. Equity can call upon specialists covering a wide range of curriculum subjects, sports and destinations that are committed to creating life-changing learning experiences for young people.

From business studies to battlefields tours, music to modern languages, physics to food technology, skiing to sports, it organises itineraries that cover the UK, Europe and the world. You'll receive support from your first enquiry to your return back to school, and Equity's passion and enthusiasm will deliver the most unforgettable and expertly organised trip.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS**



### SKI

Challenging, exciting and fun, a ski trip supports personal growth by building independence and confidence to develop resilience and teamwork.

Ski trips provide 'skills for life'.

www.equity.co.uk



### SPORT

Enriching life-changing experiences that teach new skills for teachers and students alike, strengthening talent and nurturing self-esteem through professional coaching in the finest facilities.



### **TOURS**

Broadening students'
horizons to expand active
interests and allow a
deeper understanding
of their subject, while
learning about other
cultures and discovering
new places in the UK,
Europe and more.

T: 01273 805523

E: info@equity.co.uk

# LEARNING JOURNEYS

# Option 1 – On your doorstep

Study the Bard in Stratford Upon Avon, discover the wonders of the Science Museum in London or enjoy the stunning coast on a watersports trip in Cornwall. Look in awe at the art of the Louvre in Paris, learn to love the language and the food of Normandy, or uncover history and English literature in the World War I battlefields of Somme and Ypres. Amazing experiences are right on your doorstep.

# **Option 2 – A little further**

Be blown away by geothermal power in Iceland, perform your drama and dance routines in Greece, ski across the glaciers of the Austrian Alps or walk the cobbled streets of ancient Rome. Test your team's skills with a sports tournament under the Spanish sun, or uncover the horrors of the Third Reich in Berlin and Krakow. Venture a little further and discover a vast range of European learning possibilities.

# Option 3 – A world away

Ski in the Canadian Rockies at Jasper, go out of this world at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, or learn the perfect business model in Tokyo. Study art and design amongst the skyscrapers of New York, take an unforgettable cross-curricular trip to South Africa or compete on a sports tour in the Caribbean. An entire world of educational opportunities are waiting to be uncovered.



# "A trip overseas CAN CHANGE STUDENTS' LIVES"

Visiting another country is not just fantastic practice for those studying languages – it can shape children's perspectives on the world,

says Tony O'Hara

sk the average person on the street do they want to take a group of teenagers on an overseas trip and most responses would require heavy usage of a bleeper button. So why do so many teachers with already mountainous amounts of work volunteer themselves for what is commonly perceived to be an additional and unnecessary, stress-filled task? From the outset there are hurdles to overcome. Most teachers planning a trip will find themselves facing at least two cynical questions:

# 1 "Are you sure it's an educational trip and not just a holiday?"

Tell people you're going to Barcelona for three days to help your students improve their Spanish and you'll have a hard time convincing them that it's work. Get ready to hear a sarcastic chorus of things like, "Of course you need to go to Spain. I'm sure all that sunshine and sangria will come up in the exams!"

You, however, know better: Spanish conversations between students in the classroom are one thing, but engaging with locals in shops and restaurants along the bustling boulevard of Las Ramblas is a whole other testing environment.

### 2 "Why are you going to the Louvre, it's all online these days?"

There is no denying that a

growing number of learning resources are available at the click of a mouse button. Many of the world's finest museums showcase their collections online and, it's true, students can see masterpieces without ever leaving the classroom. However, you cannot hope to convey the lasting power of art through a desktop: witnessing the sheer scale and visceral impact of Picasso's Guernica in Madrid's Museo Reina Sofia up close is an experience that simply cannot be replicated via a 22-inch screen.

# A personal perspective

I count myself as a very lucky member of the overseas school trip club. Neither my older brother or sister ever got to join, and neither did most of my neighbourhood.

My first foreign trip was a German language visit to the Saarland in SouthWest Germany when I was 17. I was to be indebted to my German teacher on many occasions on this trip, but the first time she saved me was at the check-in desk at the airport. Until that point I'd never been abroad – I'd never even been on a plane before – so I was trying my best to hide my inexperience and nervousness from my

classmates. Her ingenious method to settle the group's nerves was to gather everyone together in the airport terminal and show them the full horror of her passport photo. It was a brave move. Being invited to laugh at the teacher is not the traditional method to garner respect from your students. It worked like a charm, though. She showed us a whole new side to her that instantly made her seem more human and likeable (no mean feat to cynical teenage eyes).

This sparked a frantic attempt among the group to find the next most horrific passport photo (as everyone now wanted to be as cool as the teacher who could laugh at herself). For once my unphotogenic features were a winning advantage. My passport was snatched from my grasp and handed around the group like a desired trophy.

By the time we boarded the plane my nerves had evaporated, and I was eagerly talking to people who had previously been distant in the classroom. The ice having been well and truly broken, our teacher kept everyone enthralled by sharing her childhood stories of growing up in East Germany.

"What we learned on that trip went well beyond preparing for a German language exam"

# Real-world experiences

My perception before arriving at Frankfurt airport was that Germans were humourless machines, ruthlessly striving



for better efficiency. They didn't have DNA so much as algorithms coursing through their veins. In the coming days I learned far more than when to use 'Der, Die, Das'...

Firstly, I found out that Germans really do have a sense of humour and that they laugh – a lot. They laughed at each other, at their national stereotypes, at other regions (Northern Germans are referred to as 'fish heads', and don't get them started on how Berliners butcher the language!).

Another thing I discovered was the difference between learning a language in class and speaking a language in the real world. Nobody said "auf wiedersehn"; they said
"tschüss". We went there
expecting to here sharp cries of
"nein" swiftly followed by a click
of heels, but instead we heard
friendly calls of "nee".

Maybe their efficiency did rub off on us a little, because we managed to cram in a whole week's worth of activities in only three days. So many small cultural differences regularly produced huge talking points for discussion (quite handy on a language trip really). It blew our minds the first time we saw locals at a deserted street crossing waiting for the green man to signal it was safe to walk, for example. Jaywalking was second nature to us, so seeing an orderly, patient group obeying

the rules was completely alien behaviour (as every secondary school teacher can attest to).

### Real benefits

So how do you convince cynics of the value of an overseas educational trip when all they'll focus on is the cost and the time-consuming paperwork? The answer wasn't just in my test scores; it was in the new friends I had made and the confidence I gained. What we learned on that trip went well

beyond preparing for a German language exam.

Visiting Germany was a life-changing experience. The anxious teenager who stood in the airport nervously wondering what awaited him on his first foreign trip was not the same person when he returned home (and I'm not just referring to my introduction to German beer). I left something behind on that trip and replaced it with a whole new perspective on the world.

### THE EVIDENCE

### Secondary students:

Following their overseas trip...

65% said their teachers had a better understanding of how they liked to learn.

**84%** said they get on better with the other pupils in their class.

79% said that the residential made them realise that what they were learning at school was important to them.

In words: "In school you see teachers as scary and strict, but on the residential trip they're so much nicer. You see them as normal human beings." (Secondary student focus group)

### Teachers:

Reflecting on 'learning away'...

**78%** felt that learning away from the classroom had a 'significant' or 'transformative' impact on their understanding of their students' strengths and limitations.

55% felt that residentials had enhanced or developed new relationships with other professionals.

In words: "The student-teacher relationship built in a week on residential is similar to that of a relationship built over an entire year in a normal class situation." (Staff survey)

**Source:** Learning Away Report 2015 resource centre.



Tony O'Hara is a travel specialist for Equity. Visit www. equityschooltravel.co.uk



# **10 OF THE BEST**

# ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS

For a really wild time, look no further than this selection of zoos, sanctuaries, safari parks and aquariums

The Deep
The Deep is home to 3,50

The Deep is home to 3,500 fish and welcomes over 30,000 students every year to its purpose-built Learning Centre. The aquarium's exhibits include a breath-taking coral reef in the Lagoon, some impressively large sharks in Endless Ocean and a look at the creatures of the Amazon in the Flooded Forest.

Workshops, presentations and hands-on activities are delivered to school groups by a team of experienced in-house teachers, who cover a wide selection of topics – including science, geography, English, citizenship, maths and for older students marketing, customer care, and travel and tourism.

Find out more at www.thedeep.co.uk



BACK
INTIME

Visit Longleat House to learn about its role as a military relief hospital during the First World War and what life was like for patients.

Longleat is home to a wide range of attractions, so can easily tie in with a variety of topics, act as a case study, or be the inspirational starting point to a project. Science and history have intrinsically strong connections but Longleat also presents wonderful opportunities for subjects such as English, maths, art and design that can be given a real-life context.

There's a huge selection of workshops and resources, for EYFS through to KS4+, to access, and Longleat is committed to continuously improving through expanding their variety of activities on offer.

For details, call **01985 845 403**, email **education@longleat.co.uk** or visit **www.longleat.co.uk/education** 

# **S** Flamingo Land Resort

Flamingo Land in North Yorkshire offers a great day out for secondary school students. Your group will be able to enjoy the thrills of amazing theme park rides and explore an award-winning animal collection. They can tour the zoo, and attend keeper talks that provide fascinating information about a variety of our animals, including Sumatran tigers, African lions, giraffes, black and white rhinoceroses, and many more.

Business studies students can also take the opportunity to learn how a major leisure attraction operates, with information on a range of topics covering HR, customer services, finance and marketing.

Call **0800 40 888 40** or visit **www.flamingoland.co.uk** 





There's more to learning outside the classroom than just monkey-ing around! At Monkey World, a dedicated education team can lead your class in a curriculum-focused workshop, or talk. There are sessions suitable for all ages, whether you would like students to learn more about Monkey World's history or to discover how woolly monkeys use their tails! With 250 primates, 65 acres to explore and three play areas, Monkey World is the perfect venue for fun and educational school trips.

For more information, call **01929 462 537** or visit **www.monkeyworld.org** 

Redwings

Redwings is the UK's largest horse sanctuary.

Visiting students will learn about the importance of animal welfare as they discover the care the sanctuary provides for rescued horses, ponies and donkeys.

The sanctuary can be booked exclusively for school groups and can tailor educational visits to meet a range of learning outcomes suitable to outdoor learning at its visitor centre locations. Redwings facilitates learning outside the classroom through fun interactive sessions – what better way to learn than by getting up close to a giant Shire horse, a family of donkeys or a group of cheeky ponies?

For details, call **01508 481 000** or visit **www.redwings.org.uk** 



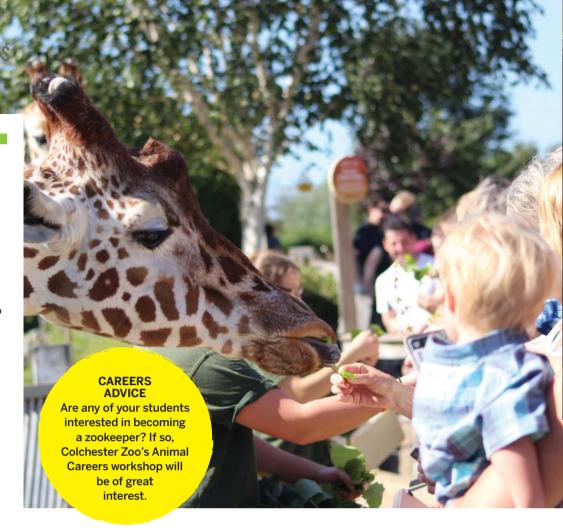
# // ANIMAL ATTRACTI

Colchester Zoo Colchester Zoo has an award-winning education programme and offers free sessions to support many subjects across the curriculum. As well as covering traditional biological science and geography concepts, such as adaptations and conservation, it also extends to English debating skills, art, maths and wildlife forensics, to support curriculum areas not traditionally associated with

Schools looking for a general zoo visit are also very welcome to attend and use any of the zoo's free online resources to focus self-guided or group learning.

a zoo visit.

For more information, email education@colchesterzoo.org or visit www.colchesterzoo.org

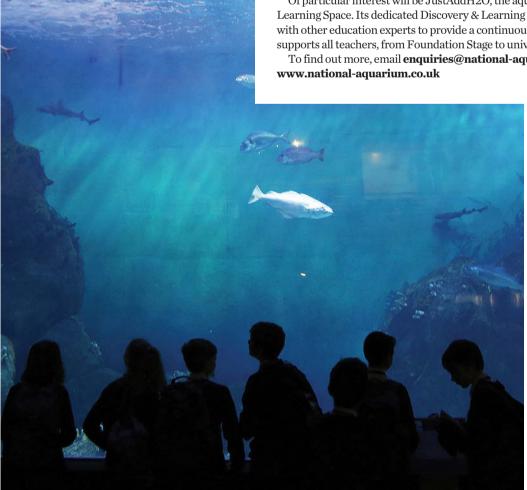




The National Marine Aquarium is the largest public aquarium in the UK, welcoming 300,000 visitors per year (including 30,000 school students). Its range of exhibits features marine animals from near and far, including zones dedicated to the Atlantic Ocean, the Great Barrier Reef and Plymouth Sound.

Of particular interest will be JustAddH2O, the aquarium's award-winning Learning Space. Its dedicated Discovery & Learning team operate in partnership with other education experts to provide a continuously developing programme that supports all teachers, from Foundation Stage to university and beyond.

To find out more, email enquiries@national-aquarium.co.uk or visit







# SEA LIFE London Aquarium

Offering discounted rates and a range of educational workshops and talks, SEA LIFE is a great option for any school planning to visit the capital. Students can enjoy an Underwater World tour, taking in a host of different habitats and artefacts, and a Behind the Scenes tour, in which an expert aquarist will reveal how the aquarium's team care for over 600 marine and freshwater species, and provide insights into SEA LIFE's breeding, research and conservation programmes. They'll even get to see how the fish food is prepared! Free downloadable teaching resources are also available.

For details, email schools@ londonaquarium.co.uk or visit www.visitsealife.com

O Costwold Wildlife Park

If you're visiting Cotswold Wildlife Park with a KS3 or KS4 group, be sure to take advantage of one of the education sessions on offer. Its team can provide any of its lower level talks to your students, using language and information appropriate to pupils. Many of these fit in well with the secondary curriculum, including sessions focused on adaptations, rainforests and African animals. Other talks focus on birds of prey, primates, animal movement (for biology, art or drama students), enclosure design, conservation, and marketing and business studies. Longer and more detailed workshops on any topic are also available, if required.

Find our more at www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk or call 01993 825 720.



Paignton Zoo
Paignton Zoo in Devon features 2,500 animals across 80 acres of natural habitat. It has a comprehensive education offering to tempt schools – secondary students can access a range of interactive, curriculum-linked workshops, which take place in themed classrooms containing a host of artefacts and specimens. Options include Adaptation, Endangered Animals & Conservation, Evolution and Business & Marketing, and all are taught by qualified teaching staff. The team can also help visiting teachers to develop an itinerary for their visit, spanning a wide range of subjects, including maths, art, English, geography and more.

To find out more, email education@paigntonzoo.org.uk or visit www.paigntonzoo.org.uk

eachwire.net/secondary



**STEM Camps with EA School Tours** 

EA School Tours is a specialist school travel provider offering bespoke, all-inclusive school trips. We specialise in STEM trips to the USA. Get in touch to hear more about our NASA options and our teacher preview trip to Orlando in October!

### Trip Highlights:-

- Participate in a student Astronaut Training Experience using NASA-approved motion simulators
- Q&A with a real astronaut
- Behind the scenes science tour at Universal Studios
- Shuttle launch viewing opportunities
- Tailored hands-on learning with NASA educators
- Real-life physics learning in a freefall wind tunnel

"We travelled to Kennedy Space Centre where we explored the campus and later had lunch with accomplished astronaut Jack Lousma who told us a few really interesting stories about his amazing space trips and experiences. The Saturn V Rocket, Apollo Mission exhibits and the Atlantis Space Shuttle were truly incredible! To put it simply, the NASA tour was really spectacularly awesome."

Student at Guildford Grammar, Australia. NASA Tour to Orlando. December 2017.

"I want to say a huge thank you to you for putting together such a great tour and to Mike for being such a knowledgeable tour rep and for being a calm and efficient problem-solver! We had a fabulous trip, I'm already starting to think about the next one."

> Teacher at Cheltenham Ladies' College, NASA Tour to Orlando, October 2017.



# **Special offer:** Free Teacher preview trip

FREE teacher preview trip to Orlando in October, Email us to find out dates and itinerary.



www.easchooltours.com

Email: schooltours@educatingadventures.com Phone: +44 (0) 20 7193 2647







# **WE'RE THE EXPERTS**

# "We support teachers"

Educating Adventures' Elliott Hannam tells us about creating customised school trips for teachers and their students

# Why are EA School Tours experts in school trips?

We are Educating Adventures, STEM school trip specialists who have been taking schools to visit unique destinations, such as the Kennedy Space Center and Silicon Valley's top tech locations, since 2005. Our knowledgeable and experienced team works with teachers at every stage of the process, from conception to pre-departure planning to on-ground support. We work closely with schools to ensure that all of our trips are tailored to their curriculum requirements and needs.

# What sets your USA trips apart?

We have strong standing relationships with our school trip partners and work closely with them to create customised trips for schools travelling to the USA. Schools receive 24/7 support from their EA on-tour representative, who is there to coordinate, organise and ensure that both teachers and students enjoy every second of their time away.

# How does EA support teachers in the planning process?

Educating Adventures understands that students, their parents and teachers themselves all have busy lives, and that planning a school trip can be an incredibly time-consuming undertaking. Therefore, to ensure the planning process for every trip runs as smoothly as possible, our experienced team has developed processes and resources to guarantee that all elements of the trip preparation are efficiently managed. Our offering includes:

- a password-protected individual trip website
- teacher planning chart and letter templates
- checklists and packing lists
- other advertising collateral throughout the trip.



# EXPERT PROFILE

Name: Elliott Hannam

Job title: School Travel Consultant

Area of expertise: Creating tailored trips to suit school requirements

Best part of my job: Hearing the fantastic learning experiences students have on-tour

# What feedback have vou had from teachers?

Our teachers have found their trips to be a perfect balance of educational components and enjoyable activities. Our knowledgeable team provides tailored visits to suit school requirements and always strives to exceed all expectations. Teachers enjoy the excellent customer service on and off the ground. After their trip, students are able to connect science and maths concepts in the classroom with 'real-life' examples.

# What support can you offer ahead of the visit?

In conjunction with NASA and the Kennedy Space Center in Orlando, we facilitate an opportunity for teachers to join an incredible, educational preview trip. This preview trip allows teachers to experience key trip components and return to school with tangible evidence of the benefits for their students. Our NASA teacher preview trip departs every April and October for four full days of activities. Preview trip costs are refunded upon confirmation of the school's trip.

# **ASK ME ABOUT**

**CUSTOMISING SCHOOL TRIPS** – Transforming your curriculum requirements into a bespoke itinerary for your students. This will include educational, fun and exciting components.

**REQUESTING A SAMPLE ITINERARY** – Looking for inspiration on a STEM trip? I can provide all the information you need, including a range of sample itineraries.

**OTHER DESTINATION OPTIONS** – Head off with your group to new and exciting destinations: embark on a cultural trip to Japan or combine language and history in Europe.

www.easchooltours.com E: schooltours@educatingadventures.com T: +44 (0)20 7193 2647

Jo Allum of Galloway School Tours shares tips on booking your first school excursion...



### Why book through a company?

It's less hassle. Everything is organised on your behalf, and at Galloway, we offer one point of contact who books the complete package: travel, accommodation and attractions. What's more, we can offer expert advice and great group rates, and with us you're fully protected against most eventualities too.

# **Should** we go for a 🚄 day, or longer?

Depending on your location a day trip to France or Belgium may be a cheaper alternative for students to experience the Continent first hand. It's a great taster for younger years. Longer visits encourage self-confidence and teamwork and provide opportunities to plan a fuller itinerary.

# • How can I get Opupils and parents

Start promoting early with assemblies and parents' meetings, and take advantage of online museum resources in the classroom. Build a picture of the academic and social benefits. Make the trip personal; for example, on a Battlefield tour encourage parents to help research ancestors, as students may be able to visit family graves.

# Do you have any advice for a

E: schools@gallowayeuropean.co.uk

Don't be afraid! Plan ahead to secure your preferred dates and so parents have enough time to pay. Tell us your learning objectives so we help you get the most from the trip. We'll even take care of all the health and safety issues and documentation so you can relax.

# Overseas study tours

If you're organising a residential or day trip abroad, contact our experienced Tour Co-ordinators today to discuss your next group booking into Europe.



# Berlin and the Cold War

4 days

Travel by air to study the effects of the Cold War on Berlin's culture, architecture and economic development.



Galloway



Visit gallowayschools.com or call 01449 767778

# **Arundel Castle**

Discover nearly 1,000 years of history and 40 acres of gardens and grounds

### **PLAN YOUR VISIT**

Arundel Castle offers an exciting educational experience and a packed calendar of events between late March and October. Complimentary planning visits are available for teachers.

### Tour the castle rooms

Specialist guides will take you through the finely preserved castle rooms including the Barons' Hall, Armoury, 14th century Catholic Fitzalan Chapel, Regency Library and Victorian bedrooms. Climb the Norman motte and keep – constructed in 1068 – with stunning views across the South Downs.

**Explore fantastic gardens**Marvel at sub-tropical species in the Glasshouse and seasonal potted flowers in the Collector Earl's Garden, and run around

the maze in the shadow of Oberon's Palace. Discover the innovative Stumpery and find out what happens to produce grown in the Organic Kitchen Garden.

# Witness a siege (26−28May 2018)

A French raiding party has seized the castle! Experience a fictional 15th century siege based in 1474. Meet fully armoured knights who will battle it out representing England and France, with replica cannons firing, swords clashing and arrows flying.

# 4 Experience a tournament (24–29 July 2018)

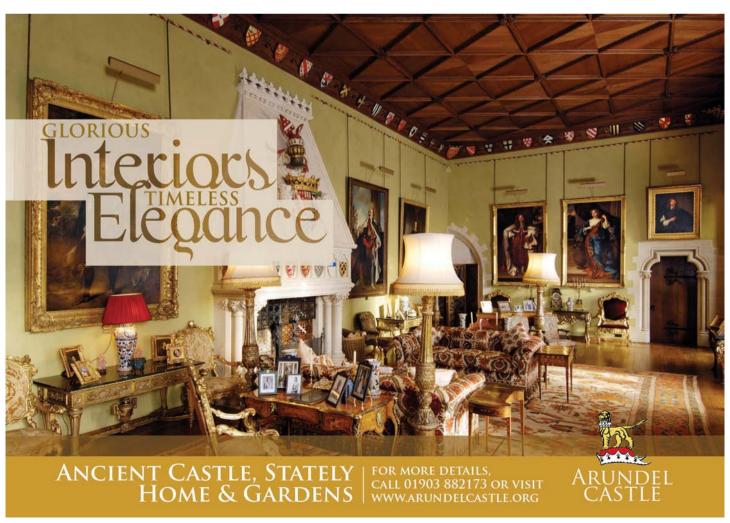
Watch as jousters from around the world charge at each other atop specially trained horses along the tilt rail. Learn the rules of jousting and cheer on your favourite as knights clad in full plate armour compete for the Order of Arundel.



# Discover combat (25–27 August 2018)

Explore the history of Sussex and Arundel Castle from the Stone Age all the way through to the Edwardian period as historical characters are pitted against each other in combat. Enjoy archery and falconry demonstrations and discover the costumes from each era.

www.arundelcastle.org T: 01903 882173 E: visits@arundelcastle.org



# IS YOUR TRIP ACCESSIBLE TO ALL?

With a little extra planning, you can ensure that students with SEND can enjoy the full benefits of your group's away days, explains **Juno Hollyhock...** 

JUNO HOLLYHOCK

chool trips can be great fun but, as with anything, preparation is key. If you don't understand fully what your students will be accessing (and how), or anticipate potential issues, then you won't be ready should problems arise, and things may go wrong quickly

Of course, preparation is even more important if you are taking pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Doing so is hugely rewarding, but there are a few more things you need to think about to ensure both your students' wellbeing and that all are able to engage fully with the experience.

So, here are 10 points to bear in mind as you're planning your next excursion...

# Understand your group

Before you start you need to know what challenges you may face – simply going to a school trip provider and asking, "How do you cater for children with SEND?" will almost certainly not give you all of the information that you need.

First make sure you have a clear understanding of the children in your group. Do those with SEND have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) that you can refer to? This will contain useful information about their abilities and limitations that you can use to ascertain the suitability of your proposed destination.

# 2 Help them to prepare

For some children, particularly those with an autism diagnosis, a change in routine can be catastrophic. What can trigger excitement and pleasure in one child may very well trigger anxiety and aggression in another, so check with parents and colleagues that the planned activity is not one likely to cause problems.

If there is a potential issue, this doesn't mean the child can't go – just that you need to prepare them well, explain what's going to happen and when, and give them some kind of way of tracking progress.

Try a 'do now, do next' board – these can be made or purchased very cheaply and with a bit of Velcro (other sticky-things are available!) and a selection of images are a really good way of helping children feel in control of their world.

Learning how to cope with, and adapt to, change is a vital life skill and preparing for a new trip is a great way to practise this. Children at secondary school will be exposed to a wide range of new experiences when they leave

and it is important that we don't always keep going with what is familiar to them.

# **3** Consider communication

Some children with SEND use different forms of communication and these should be used before, during and after your trip. The child's EHCP should state their preferred communication method – this may be verbal or using symbols, sign language such as Makaton perhaps, or widget images.

Check with your school trip provider what (if any) additional forms of communication they can provide to make sure that your children get the most out of their experience.

4 Getting there (and back!)

Some children with SEND struggle with certain forms of transport. Those with access or mobility requirements may need certain types of adaptations or specific safety features, so be prepared in advance to check with any transport company that you are using.

Before you arrive at the venue it's important to know whether you are going to have to walk a long way or negotiate steps, steep slopes or uneven surfaces. These aren't impossible barriers, but some children may need additional support getting around, and this should be factored into your timing and staffing considerations.

"Check with your trip provider what (if any) additional forms of communication they can provide to ensure your children get the most out of their experience"

# Don't forget food Some children with

SEND will have very specific food preferences or will have intolerances or allergies that have to be catered for - whilst this is also the case with children without special needs, the implications can be more severe with this group.

It may be that you have in your group a child who is not fed orally; in this case you need to make sure that you have clear protocols and trained staff who know how to use PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy) feeding systems.

Make sure that you know what meals and snack choices are acceptable and that they are either taken with you or are available on site.

resources

duration of your trip in line

administration policy.

Ask about

with your school's medicines

Many school trip providers offer a range of resources or resource packs for teachers and pupils to use whilst they are on the trip. Check in advance whether these packs are differentiated to children with different levels of need or ability, or if they will require some adapting for all of your pupils to be able to access them.

Some providers will make pictorial, widget or easy-to-read versions available while others may offer sign language supported tours or audio assistance.

O Multisensorv **Oinput** 

The best school trips provide multisensory input on a range of levels - we

all have different senses that we like to use and children especially enjoy a variety of sensory experiences.

For children with SEND the senses are incredibly important, and the more opportunities there are for them to use smell, touch, sound and even taste as well as vision, the more they will get out of the experience.

That said, do be aware that some children can experience sensory overload, so find out in advance what awaits them. and what they can cope with, before you go. Some children with more profound learning disabilities, for example, will often find one colour more or less easy to relate to, so bright blocks of colour can be a challenge. Knowing this in advance means that you can guide children's experiences to be enjoyable rather than threatening.

Physical activities

welcome the chance to

Some children with

special needs will

take part in sporting activities or physical pursuits whilst on a school trip. Others may need support to overcome challenges such as physical contact, which can feel threatening.

Aim to plan a trip where there is a mix of activities available that will help everyone to shine somewhere whilst allowing space for trying new and challenging experiences and learning from failure.

Sometimes it may be possible to compromise on some activities. For example, if you want to run a camping trip but find the thought of catering for your special needs pupils too daunting, why not consider a halfway house such as a village hall, scout hut or similar building, rather than jumping all the way to being under canvas?

> Keep it simble

Whatever you do, it is better to plan for less complex trips and activities to begin with and do them well, and then to build up to the more complex adventures. School trips are a vital opportunity to

> develop social skills and self-esteem and to discover new strengths and talents – planned well everyone can get a lot out of them and have a thoroughly rewarding time.



Juno Hollyhock charity the Rose Road Association,

65

been working to build a world where disability is not a barrier since 1952. Visit www.roseroad.org.uk

Manage medication

Some children with SEND take long-term medications - these should be allowed for for the

> is CEO of which has

# **5 OF THE BEST**

# THEME PARKS

Whether you're planning an end-of-year fun day or exploring the physics of roller-coasters, you'll find what you need here...



# The LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort

LEGO's resort is an exciting venue for learning outside the classroom and most suitable for Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 pupils – although there are also experiences available for preschool and younger school pupils. Schools can use a National Curriculum Map to navigate their way around the resort, ensuring that it's a simple matter to tie in all of your learning objectives whilst students enjoy the over 55 rides and attractions.

For more information, visit www.LEGOLAND.co.uk/Education, or call 0871 4232 280.

Alton Towers

The Alton Towers Resort Theme
Park welcomes schools from all over
the country. This year, there's an amazing
new ride experience to entertain your
group: Wicker Man, a multisensory rite of
passage guaranteed to get hearts pumping
and senses tingling! Alton Towers Education
has a dedicated schools team to help you
every step of the way, from booking your
trip to delivering memorable educational
experiences. There are even special Teacher
VIP days that allow you to meet the team
and explore what Alton Towers Resort has to
offer your school.

Contact the Schools Team at education@ alton-towers.com, call 01538 704 439 or visit www.altontowers.com/schools





# 3 Chessington World of Adventures

Schools visiting the Chessington World of Adventures Resort can expect a truly wild adventure in 2018. Students can enjoy expeditions around its zoo in new 'walkshops', or embark on fact-finding missions to learn all about Chessington's four new resident endangered Amur Tigers, who live in the brand new 'Land of the Tiger'. Not only that, 2018 sees the launch of the fantastic Wild Learning Centre, which, with its five immersively themed zones, is sure to give your pupils their wildest lesson yet!

For more details, email **cwschools@chessington.co.uk** or visit **www.chessington.com** 

Paultons Park
Set within 140 acres of parkland on the edge of the New Forest, Paultons Park is a family theme park with an extensive educational offering. School groups can take advantage of a range of interactive workshops (suitable for Key Stages 1 to 4) in Professor Blast's lab, focused on topics such as roller-coaster physics, dinosaurs, animal encounters and even theme park marketing (teachers can apply for free tickets, to see what's on offer in advance). There are more than 70 rides to enjoy too, plus go karts and even some moving dinosaurs...

For more information, email education@paultons.co.uk or visit www.paultonspark.co.uk



# Flambards Theme Park

Flambards Theme Park can be found in Helston, Cornwall and combines a wide range of rides with indoor re-creations of different historical eras, including educational experiences aimed specifically at schools. The latter include a life-size Victorian village featuring 50 explorable locations and a 'Britain in the Blitz' attraction – schools can book 'living history characters' to help bring these to life, for example, an Air Raid Patrol warden. Meanwhile your thrillseekers will enjoy the Skyraker (pictured right) and experience up to 3G with the giant, white-knuckle experience that is 'Sky-force'...

To find out more, call **01326 573404**, email **info@ flambards.co.uk** or visit **www.flambards.co.uk** 

# INTO THE FIELD

Education destinations that offer a real-life context for students' learning can help them grasp tricky concepts – and even inspire career choices, says **Anna Blewett** 

f you're a veteran of departmental field trips with your pupils you'll know that no matter how great your lesson plans, how inspiring your classroom materials, or attentive your manner towards those who are struggling, the quickest route to an educational breakthrough is often journeyed in a luridly upholstered coach full of hyperactive kids. In fact, key findings in Ofsted research into learning outside the classroom concluded that, when well planned and executed, educational trips contribute "significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development".

The Association for Science Learning also points to compelling evidence that STEM fieldwork at secondary level engenders measurable benefits for pupils' motivation, cognitive skills and contextualising of complex issues. "With some experiences the impact isn't necessarily felt at the time," says Marianne Cutler, the organisation's director of curriculum innovation. "But the work beforehand and after - revisiting and consolidating, looking at photos - can absolutely help children to have those lightbulb moments. If teachers prepare their students well before the visits and then afterwards, the learning can be consolidated. It helps give them a sense of why they're learning about, for example, forces involved in a

roller-coaster, because they can see the application, and that's positive."

Ofsted concurs, its report concluding that learning outside the classroom is most effective when carefully woven into a wider framework of curriculum planning and firmly tethered to classroom activities. Visiting a working site can ramp up the benefits, at once delivering unforgettable curricular content, challenging students' preconceptions of academia and industry, and opening their eyes to the career opportunities in a given field. Check out our favourite destinations for real-world science education adventures:

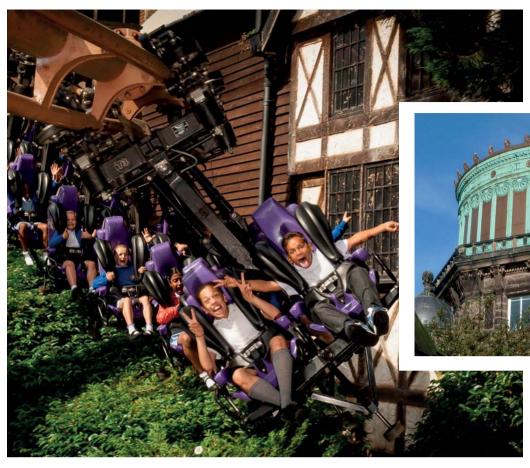
# The Synchotron Diamond

Light Source, Oxfordshire There's nothing like bombastic physics to bring much-needed 'wows' to the curriculum, and Oxfordshire's whopping particle accelerator is a conceptual big hitter. "It's often the scale that impresses," says education office David Price of the 'synchrotron', which produces light 10 billion times brighter than the sun and channels it into 29 beams of electrons used to study the atomic and chemical structures of tiny samples. "The particle accelerator sits in a concrete tunnel but that

tunnel surrounds a room the size of five football pitches." Bathing in the reflected glory of CERN, the site also sparks a little national pride. "A regular response is, 'I didn't know we were doing this stuff."

The precious 'beamtime' the accelerator generates is reserved for carefully vetted researchers, but having toured and examined the 'machine' pupils can explore the ramifications of its workings for their own areas of study.





"There are lots of things we do that connect with the curriculum at KS3 and 4," says David. "For example, waves and the electro-magnetic spectrum. Some exam boards cover the effect of electromagnets on electrons, which is essentially how we make the machine work." What's more, tours and workshops are often delivered by the scientists and engineers who work at the facility. "Talking to an engineer, not a guide, creates very positive feedback," says David. "It's important because they get to see what a scientist looks like. Rather than a caricature - a big white coat and glasses - they meet a real person."

### Diamond.ac.uk

# 2 The theme park

Chessington World of Adventures, Surrey The mind-boggling forces unleashed on roller-coaster rides has been brought into sharp focus in recent times, a timely reminder for physics students of the real-life applications of their textbook formulae. If an adventure park seems a frivolous destination then think again; the Theme Park Physics workshop at

Chessington World of Adventures involves some serious calculations as groups explore the speed and energy efficiency of their favourite rides. "Looking at examples from around the theme park, pupils learn about forces, energy transfers and the calculations that are used to operate the rides," says education team member Bryony Anderson. "They undertake team challenges based on the resort's own rides that require them to interpret and use the calculations themselves."

A post-workshop opportunity to experience the forces at play on each ride is a chance to indelibly mark your students' memories with the concepts of force; how better to bring equations juggling acceleration, velocity, momentum and speed to life? "From the conversations our education team has had with teachers, the most valuable aspect from their perspective is that these workshops put examinable content into a relatable context," says Bryony. "Identifying energy transfers through the journey of a rollercoaster, for example."

Chessington.com

# 3 The observatory

Royal Observatory Edinburgh, Scotland Home to the UK Astronomy Technology Centre and the Institute for Astronomy, this site in Edinburgh is the perfect destination if your lessons on the galaxies are less than glittering. The visitor centre boasts an enviable war chest of artefacts - including ancient astronomical documents, Apollo mission rock samples, and some stonking telescopes - to illustrate the timeline of galactic gazing. The site's real coup de grace, however, is the interface it offers between school groups and the coalface of astronomical research. Workshops into galaxies and exoplanets allow pupils to grapple with real data from ongoing studies. What's more, groups can tour the onsite labs: "KS3 and 4 pupils who visit are interested in speaking to experts," says Matt Cook, public engagement officer at the observatory. "We have a wealth of scientists and engineers on-site who are very happy to answer questions and talk about their work."

Besides the opportunity to

bump astronomical research into your pupils' consciousness there are also important links to the curriculum. "GSCE astronomy is now a thing, and has its own equivalent up here in Scotland," points out Matt. "We're also covering transferrable skills: data handling, working with very big numbers and large timescales, considering sample size, studying data sets and understanding the scientific process. We try to be as cross-curricular as we can given that we're a physics-heavy site. We also offer resources for teachers that tie closely to the curriculum and are based on work that has been, or is being, done here." Helping students get a grasp of up-to-date discoveries in deep space is a particular forte. "For example, exoplanet activity - the world beyond our solar system - is being actively researched here, so we're updating our information month-by-month." Roe.ac.uk



Anna Blewett is a freelance journalist who is always looking for new adventures.

# **10 TO CONSIDER**

# **INSPIRING IDEAS**

Still haven't found what you're looking for? Here are even more great options for schools with itchy feet...

### Eurotunnel

A school trip is often the highlight of the year for students, but it comes with lots of responsibility for teachers. If you're staying within Europe there are real advantages to going by coach keeping everyone in one space, rather than battling with public transport. Did you know that if you cross the channel using Eurotunnel Le Shuttle, everyone stays on the coach.and in 35 minutes



you're in Calais? There are loos, cafés and shops at the terminals, and both borders (UK and French) are negotiated before you leave the UK, so once you arrive in France, you drive straight off and get on with the journey. The simpler you make it, the better the chance you'll enjoy it too! Visit www.eurotunnel.com



# **WWI Centenary Battlefield Tours**

Take advantage of a free First World War Battlefields Tour – experience four days in Ypres and the Somme utilising government funding available for secondary and middle schools in England. Two students and one teacher from your school can join 15 other schools to retrace soldiers' footsteps and delve deeper into what happened and why 100 years ago, following either a history or English literature itinerary. A serving soldier from the British Army and a battlefield guide accompany every tour to provide thought-provoking perspectives. Afterwards, create your own legacy in your local community through a post-tour commemorative project. Funding culminates in March 2019 - register at www.centenarybattlefieldtours.org to reserve your place.

**Brathay Trust**Situated in the stunning Lake District National Park, Brathay Hall is home to Brathay Trust. Each year the site hosts hundreds of young people on immersive, memorable and life-changing residential programmes that promote resilience, leadership and wellbeing.

A Brathay residential programme offers a powerful learning experience in an inspiring location, using outdoor activities and a creative approach to enable a wide range of outcomes to be achieved. As the director of services at Aspired Futures put it. "The changes we saw in young people on the residential would take us a year to achieve in our community setting." Visit www.brathay.org.uk /residentials





# Tour for Muggles

Show your students the magical side of London with this award-winning Harry Potter tour. This is a really engaging way for students to delve into the Harry Potter series while learning about London's rich history. The Tour for Muggles team have worked with many school groups and their excellent guides will make it a memorable experience for you all. Best prices are reserved for school groups, and teachers attend for free. Multi-award winner of the TripAdvisor Award of Excellence and Scoot Awards, this tour is truly Potterific! For more information, call **07914 151 041**, email bookings@tourformuggles.com or visit www.tourformuggles.com



### Galina

Galina is an independent, family-owned company that offers high-quality, curriculum-relevant study trips and educational visits for travel in the UK and Europe. Available for primary and secondary schools. its tours can be tailored to cover your students' specific learning objectives. Tour guides are selected and trained by Galina and all have an academic background and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge. The company is a member of ABTA (no. Y4466), and the coach companies and accommodation it uses are inspected to ensure high standards of safety and comfort. All bookings are guaranteed financially secure. Visit www.schooltours.co.uk or call 0800 801 560.



# Chill Factore

**Indoor Snow Centre** 

Chill Factore, Manchester has this year launched a range of unique adventure days based around skills development, puzzle solving and team building, to offer an exciting new alternative to summer reward trips and transition initiatives. The most popular package, the Chill Adventure Day, gives students an adrenaline-filled indoor adventure experience, in which they can enjoy rock climbing, sledging, tobogganing, snow tubing and ski or snowboard tuition for just £25 per head! Also newly launched are the Icebreaker Challenge, an indoor, snow-based sports day, and the Arctic Explorer Package, a snow-based problem solving break out game.

For details, call **0161749 2218** or visit **www.chillfactore.com** 



# **Epic Outdoors**

Epic Outdoors is an adventure activities licensing service and Duke of Edinburgh approved adventure provider specialising in developing personal and group skills through multi activity programmes. It currently delivers activities in the Lake District, North Wales and the Peak District – everything from gorge walking, canoe and climbing to mindfulness, wild camping and traditional storytelling – to over 2,500 young people each year. Schools receive full support, from pre-visits for staff, students and parents to curriculum blending and post residential review trips – and most importantly, genuine adventures built around learning outcomes.

Call 01539 482 218, email info@epicoutdoors.co.uk or visit www.epicoutdoors.co.uk

### **Sutton Life Centre**

Today's young people face a complex range of choices, challenges and dangers that can seriously affect their lives every single day – many that simply didn't exist for previous generations. The Sutton Life Centre equips your pupils with the knowledge they need to make informed life choices, enabling them to recognise key risks and dangers

and empowering them with the confidence to take actions that will reduce the risks to themselves and others. The award-winning Life Skills Tours will captivate your pupils as they navigate their way through realistic film-set environments and creative cinematic scenarios that aim to simulate some of the biggest risks.

Visit www.suttonlifecentre.org



### **FACE**

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) merged in 2017 to become the foremost educational organisation in the farming sector, working with schools to help students learn more about where their food comes from. As well as offering bespoke CPD for teachers, and coming into classrooms, the organisation facilitates farm visits so that students can gain hands-on experience of the modern farming industry. These visits operate all year round, but look out in particular for the LEAF Open Farm School Days on June 10th, when farms which are already opening for the very popular Open Farm Sunday will be hosting visits from schools. For details. visit www.face-online.org.uk





### **Zinc Arts**

As the UK's first accessible Arts and Residential Centre, Zinc Arts provides you with a truly inclusive learning outside the classroom experience. Specialist educational providers who believe passionately in arts without exception deliver bespoke creative activities for young people and SEN groups. Run your own learning activities, visit nearby attractions or engage your students in Zinc Arts' creative multi-arts workshops, where trained staff will tailor inclusive activities to suit teaching objectives and your students' needs. With residential facilities specifically designed for schools, it's no wonder schools keep returning to Zinc Arts Centre. For more information, call 01277

365 626, email info@zincarts.org.uk or visit zincarts.org.uk/venue-hire



spin on fundraising in your school to help seriously ill kids in your community and across the UK.

Over 100 seriously ill children and young people turn to us each month to have their wishes granted - and we simply couldn't make these a reality without the help of schools like yours fundraising and holding events. So we've created **Kids For Wish Kids - fundraising by kids, for kids**.

**The kids are in charge!** Pupils in your classes own the fundraising project, which means they'll gain lots of new skills, including organsing and promoting their event!

We provide everything they need in our **Kids For Wish Kids fundraising pack**, including tonnes of fundraising ideas, posters to promote their fundraising day or week and tips on how to hold events. Download everything from **make-a-wish.org.uk/kids** 

"The idea of "kids helping kids" has really hit home with our young people and I'm glad to see their enthusiasm and effort has reaped such positive rewards." Conor, National Citizen Service, Andover.





# WHAT'S NEW AT teachwire.net THIS MONTH?

For the latest in education news, opinions, ideas and FREE resources, there's only one online destination you need...



### 1. "Read the \*\*\*\*\*\* question!"

It's the one piece of exam advice that every teacher seems to agree on, but Adam Boxer reckons we've got it back to front. This simple tip will help GCSE students excel in exams by avoiding silly mistakes, and involves flipping the old adage of reading the question and checking your answer, so students read their answer and check the question. Read more at tinyurl.com/GCSEadvice

### 2. Teacher workload - Just say no

Schools, heads and students are all under pressure and teachers are jammed into the middle of all that, so it's inevitable that workload is an ever-increasing issue. But it really doesn't have to be that way. Sarah Bedwell explains why it's time teachers take a stand and just say no. See what she has to say at tinyurl.com/saynotoworkload

### 3. Visual aids for maths SATs

Use pictorial representations to help Year 6 students prepare for maths SATs and they'll have the visual tools to make clear mathematical links come test time. Beth Smith takes you through some handy bar model approaches that'll sure up students understanding of various mathematical concepts and help them recall them with ease. Check them out at tinyurl.com/pictorialmaths

### 4. ITAF Explained

Changes to the new Interim Teacher Assessment Framework (ITAF) have led to confusion for Y6 teachers, but fear not – Tim Roach is on hand to help. Ever since it was introduced in autumn 2015 the ITAF has undergone modifications or clarifications, and this third iteration has the potential to be even more misunderstood than before. So check out Tim's guide for everything you need to know at tinyurl.com/ITAFexplained

# **5. Free World Cup 2018 teaching resources**

Gear up for the World Cup in Russia this summer with 10 of the best KS1/2 teaching resources, including lesson plans, activities and ideas that offer students some excellent educational links. There's a guide to Russia's geography, history and culture, a maths lesson plan using real-time statistics from the tournament and more, all of which you'll find at tinyurl.com/WorldCupResources



# Tread lightly...

Taking students to explore the world can change their lives and transform outcomes – but have you considered the impact it might be having on our planet, asks **Adrian Ferraro** 

e honest now: when planning a school trip, do you consider whether the trip is ethical or sustainable? No? Don't worry, you're not alone.

During 15 years of arranging overseas school trips and expeditions, I have had a fair few conversations with teachers about travel and adventure, but I don't think I've ever been asked about whether a trip is ethical. With your help, I'm hoping we can change that. According to the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, in 2016 there were 561 million international tourists, 21 million more than the previous year. Tourism is one of the world's biggest industries - and it's growing fast.

With international tourism on the rise, and climate change an urgent matter of worldwide importance, the need for sustainability is being recognised more and more by the international community. Indeed, 2017 was declared the UN year for Sustainable Tourism. World Tourism Day, in the same year, was dedicated to 'advocating the potential of sustainable tourism'. With tourist numbers increasing, exponentially in some popular school trip destinations like Iceland, and anti-tourist demonstrations in cities like Barcelona and Venice, is it any wonder governments and NGOs are placing such high importance on the issue?

# Sharing the responsibility

Yet is it solely the responsibility of governments and NGOs? I believe schools need to play their part too. We not only have a duty but also a wonderful opportunity to educate the next

generation on how to be the responsible travellers of the future. After all, students on that school trip this year will have a lifetime of travel ahead of them.

Responsible tourism (RT) can be defined as



'tourism which minimises negative social, economic and environmental impacts, generates greater economic benefits for local people, as well as enhancing the well-being of host communities'.

When put like this, surely it's a no brainer that school trips should operate under a model of RT? Yet when it comes to choosing a travel company or expedition provider, are schools asking the right questions? Teachers, headteachers, EVCs and local authority advisors have plenty of boxes to tick – price and safety management to name just two – but not one for sustainability. Is anyone

# 7 WAYS TO PLAN A MORE SUSTAINABLE TRIP

### **CHOOSE LOCAL**

Find a tour operator that uses local guides or expedition leaders. Using locals provides a far richer educational experience. They often have decades of knowledge of your destination, can speak the local language, know the culture, the best restaurants, the less-frequented trails and the quickest evacuation routes. But the biggest reason you should go local is for the economics: you are injecting money directly into the local economy.

### **BE DIFFERENT**

The world's tourism hotspots are well trodden and 'over-tourism' is a real problem. Dare to be different with a destination that isn't already saturated with tourists. Iceland is a prime example: a great destination for geography trips, yet a sad victim of its own success. The country is currently suffering from massive overtourism. Visitor numbers have risen from just 488,600 in 2010, to 1,792,200 in 2016 and Iceland's infrastructure and environment is suffering as a result. For this reason, at the end of 2017, we took the decision to stop operating in Iceland.

### **SAVE WATER**

According to a report by *The Guardian*, a million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute. Annual consumption is set to exceed half a trillion by 2021. Encourage your students to take reuseable water bottles to fill up from the tap (remember to pack purification tablets, filters or UV treatment if needed). Be conservative in your water usage. In many destinations tourists use massively more than their fair share of water, which creates problems for the locals.

### STAY RESPECTFUL

Learn what is and isn't accepted behaviour in your destination, along with a few words of the local language. Support locally owned businesses and cooperatives. Buy souvenirs from local crafts shops or markets, not the airport! And if staying in hotels, avoid corporate chains and refrain from using the complimentary bottles of shampoo and shower gel; take your own instead.





checking whether a trip is ethical to run in the first place? Does the host community even want your group to turn up? That volunteer project you're planning, is it actually going to help the locals or is it just a token gesture to make your students feel good? What is the wider and long-term impact of your visit? Will running your trip as you plan to contribute to that destination's downfall in years to come?

Tough questions, indeed, but schools need to be asking them. After all, tourism is not a right, it's a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. If the answers to questions such as these worry us, then maybe we need to reconsider our plans.

## The right choice

Anecdotal evidence collected over the years suggests to me that teachers perceive RT as a costly luxury; the same way that organic vegetables are more expensive than their mainstream counterparts. In fact, RT is not necessarily more expensive at all. Indeed, a lot of the time, the prices for operators providing such an option beat those of competitors that don't have a sustainability policy. Besides, more importantly, can we all afford to ignore the issues?

When it comes to the decision-making process as to whether a trip should run (or not), responsible tourism should be right up there alongside safety management,

cost and educational outcomes. School trips need to be a shining example of how travel can be sustainable and ethical. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but because if they're not, we're missing a huge educational opportunity. If you don't believe me, then consider this: RT encourages a greater variety of learning experiences, a more authentic insight into your destination, and greater interaction with local people, which, perhaps most importantly, results in a greater degree of cross cultural awareness. And let's face it. that's more important now than ever. Travelling more responsibly is something we can all do, but it's a conscious decision we have to make. The potential rewards are huge, for everyone, so let's educate the next generation of travellers to be more responsible, and ensure their adventures don't cost the earth.

For more information visit Tourism Concern (tourismconcern.org.uk); Travelife (travelife.org) – a certification system for tour operators and a subsidiary of ABTA); or thestc.co.uk



Adrian
Ferraro is
founder and
director
of STC
Expeditions

# SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

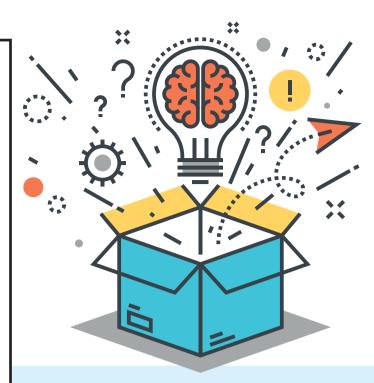
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# Boosting esteem WITH A BATTLE AXE

Whether you're impersonating a viking or overcoming a fear of heights, outdoor experiences can do wonders for vour self-confidence, says Matthew Lester

've been lucky enough to lead outdoor education experiences as both a teacher and site facilitator and it is something I've loved regardless of which side of the fence I've been on (although I will admit that I am delighted I no longer have to hunt down students who are 'lost' orienteering in the school grounds). While my experiences and roles have changed I still leave each successful session with equal parts exhaustion and exhilaration. The benefits of taking students outside of their normal learning environment are widely recognised and thankfully the school field trip is alive and well. The multifaceted nature of outdoors experiences lends itself to education, and as often as not such visits become formative parts of our students' personal development.

A striking effect

One session that really highlighted these benefits to me happened while working as a heritage educator, shortly after leaving teaching. The session focused on Viking battle tactics and the arms and armour of the period. I was having the usual pre-session chat with the lead teacher to see where the students were in the topic and asked if there was anything I needed to be aware of. A young student was pointed out who was very shy but would love to be involved if an opportunity arose. How do you empower a shy young student who is clearly terrified of you in your Hiberno-Norse costume?

Give them a battle axe.

After a little gentle persuasion I'm joined at the front of the class and we get started. The student is tasked with hitting my shield (gently) with the view to ultimately demonstrate how the axe's 'beard' is used to hook and pull my defences away from me. (It's worth noting here this was all carried out within the confines of health and safety.) After several tentative taps, she gets into the swing of things and the session resonates with the sounds of the blade striking the timbers. When we stopped she had a smile as big as the dent she left in the shield.

What struck me most was not the evident rise in her self-esteem and confidence, but how her classmates rallied around her. They were visibly delighted in her participation and were unshrinking in

"For me, the most enjoyable sessions have involved seeing students going beyond themselves and coming out the other side with a newvoicing their approval; what started out as an individual interaction had become a whole-class experience. The oddity of the activity allowed her to step out of the norm and try something new, and her success was amplified by her classmates recognising her individual achievement in both the activity and overcoming her shyness.

Now, I certainly wouldn't advocate handing out axes to all and sundry, but in this instance it enabled us to go beyond the curriculum and into personal development. It was empowering and different.

I think this is the real strength of outdoor experiences. The avenues we can go down are endless, and with a little creativity we can tap into a whole range of other learning opportunities.

# Rising to the challenge

While teaching in Ireland I was often involved in the 'transition year' programme at my school. This year occurs between the Irish equivalents of the GCSEs and A-Levels. In most schools the academic load during this period is greatly reduced and the focus shifts towards personal development, with the year often culminating in a week at an outdoor adventure centre.

While often a tense week as a teacher, I always looked

student to try the climb.

This particular student struggled with authority and worked diligently on his hard man persona - needless to say this team activity began as an entirely solo expedition. We both stuck to it, neither willing to be the first to ask for help. Halfway up we could no longer reach the next log and so we came to an impasse. I was asked (more politely than I expected) if I'd like to make it to the top. Soon I had the student's foot in hand as I tried to boost him up to the next rung, I choose to believe it was an accident that he stood on my head instead of my shoulder, although this did happen twice more as we struggled to the uppermost level.

92%

Teachers who believe pupils are more engaged with learning when outdoors

**70%** 

Teachers who believe outdoor learning has a positive impact on their job satisfaction.

Source: Natural Connections
Demonstration project

# Building confidence No matter what robeen in I've always

No matter what role I've been in I've always loved outdoor and out-of-classroom experiences. I have been 'accidentally' tipped out of more canoes than I can count, and have hurt the ears of students and teachers alike with Viking battle cries. As always there is the ever-present list of learning objectives to be ticked off, but with the outdoors allowing for creative approaches to the curriculum, taking learning outside of the classroom has always been a rewarding endeavour. For me, the most enjoyable sessions have involved seeing students going beyond themselves, trying new things, taking part in new experiences and coming out the other side with a new-found confidence or resolve. Where better to do this than the outdoors?

"How do you empower a shy young student who is clearly terrified of you in your Hiberno-Norse costume?

Give them a battle axe"

As we finally sat at the

as we whisked the students off to the wilds of the west coast. The setting and nature of the week always provided a tiring, yet enjoyable experience with a host of different activities to get involved in.

One of the
activities as part of the
high ropes session was
referred to as a 'Jacob's
ladder'. Several wooden logs
were suspended above each
other with increasing intervals
between them the higher the
structure rose. The objective
was to work together to reach
the top. After watching several
pairs make the climb I was
finally goaded (with little effort)
into participating with the last

top overlooking the harbour I could tell he was a little shaken. A quick "You okay?" was followed by "I'm terrified, sir." It might not sound like much, but it took a lot for him to say this. I was surprised and a bit ashamed that I hadn't spotted it earlier: I hadn't asked myself why a student who had thrown himself into every other physical activity possible, ended up being last in the queue and partnered with the teacher. It took a huge amount of courage for him to attempt the climb, ask for help and admit his fear. It was a really big moment. The challenge was put in front of him and he pushed through it.

With the Jacob's ladder done, we moved on to the next activity and, with a nod to each other, we were partners again – the next task, a tandem high trapeze.



Matthew Lester is a former teacher and the current education

officer at English Heritage.

# DRAMATIC EFFECT

A trip to the theatre will boost your students' English and drama skills, but it can also be an engaging route to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

JACOB STOW

v the time we reach adulthood, our recollections of our school years tend to be largely a blur - the clearest memories invariably the moments of greatest trauma (dropped lunches, that time you left your PE kit on the bus), hilarity (teachers' eternal struggles with misbehaving VCRs, that time your friend left their PE kit on the bus) and wonder. For examples of the latter it's hard to look beyond school trips because, for all but the unluckiest students, for every trip to the box-making

factory there was a fantastic residential week, an inspiring day out at the gallery, a sobering tour of a WWI battlefield or a trip to the theatre.

I was never a drama student by choice, and stepped away from the school stage when I entered Year 7, but it's the theatre trips that stick in my mind - and a Yukio Ninagawa production of King Lear, in particular. It was on at the Barbican and featured Nigel Hawthorne in the lead role, and while I subsequently learned that it had received quite the critical savaging from some quarters of the press - "More like Wurzel Gummidge than a mighty monarch", "Little more than pique in his rages", "Shallow and lacklustre" (you'll find a more balanced assessment at bit. ly/2EoAhtv) - to my, admittedly inexpert mind, it made a real impression.

It wasn't just the distinctive and unanticipated Japanese aesthetic, which instantly cast the text we had been studying in a new light, or the large 'boulders' that fell to the stage during the iconic storm scene, but the experience as a whole – from the look and feel of the theatre itself to the opportunity to see professional actors interpreting the words and themes we had been discussing in the classroom

for weeks beforehand. The very fact that I'm writing about it nearly two decades on says a lot. And that's the first of many good reasons to take your charges to the theatre – education should be exciting, inspiring and memorable; it tends to work better when it is, if nothing else. But this is just scratching the surface of what it has to offer...

### Culture counts

Exposing children of all backgrounds to cultural experiences, broadening their horizons beyond the immediate circumstances of their lives, is something that we should all be striving to achieve. It's an uphill struggle: research conducted in 2017 suggested that half of UK teenagers had "never been in a theatre" (bbc.in/2oZ6CQg), with those from disadvantaged backgrounds receiving the fewest opportunities to engage in cultural activities – as Althea Efunshile, deputy chief executive of the Arts Council, puts it, "All our children deserve a rich cultural education, but not all of them are getting it."

Putting this right is a worthy goal because, aside from the case for enjoying a play or a painting for its own sake, there's evidence that exposure to culture both boosts academic achievement and, in the longer term, "produces well-rounded adults who contribute as empathetic citizens and creative workers" (bit.ly/2GC9ZK1).

In both regards, the impact of a trip to the theatre stands out. The findings of a University of Arkansas study (bit.ly/1sRX5ch) that taking secondary-age children to high-quality performances of Hamlet and A Christmas Carol improved their vocabulary and literary knowledge in ways simply watching a TV adaptation could not match might not shock you - it stands to reason that, as in my King Lear experience, seeing a play brought to life on stage will add greatly to students' understanding of a text - but that it also resulted in increased tolerance and empathy may come as more of a surprise. (As explained on the site linked to above, the researchers established this by using what's referred to as a Reading the Mind in the Eyes' test, originally developed as part of research into autism, and then asked pupils to identify characters' emotions.)

For this reason, the theatre is a fantastic place to introduce many sensitive

"Live performances can promote qualities such as perseverance and determination, traits beneficial to all resilient learners"

issues that concern young people and society as a whole today. Watching a play can be an engaging springboard into covering British values or discussing specific themes such as gender, race, drugs, disadvantage and more. At the same time such performances often promote other qualities such as perseverance and determination, traits beneficial to all resilient learners.

## Behind the curtain

It's worth pointing out at this point that a trip to the theatre needn't be solely about watching from the stalls. Many theatres around the country take their educational role very seriously and offer a range of workshops and tours for secondary school groups. These are often tailored to address issues covered in their current productions (see Kinky Boots on page 41, for example), as well as developing performance skills and knowledge of the work that goes on behind the scenes to bring a production to the stage.

Getting involved in

workshops has the added benefit of affording your students opportunities to practise and develop a host of skills – from communication and self-confidence as they express and debate ideas in front of their peers, to creativity and collaboration as they work together to respond to the topic up for discussion, and much more besides (bit. lv/2lOPmfw). Of course, all these skills can then be taken back to school and put to good use across the curriculum.

Whatever your desired outcome, there is a theatre production or workshop that can help you to achieve it. And with their power to grab your students' imagination, boost their confidence and encourage them to engage empathetically with a range of issues personal and social, it's probably time you gave the box office a call.

Interested in treating your class to a thought-provoking performance? Find our rundown of 10 of the country's best theatre trips from page 12.

### 9 WAYS A TRIP TO THE THEATRE CAN BOOST SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- 1 Vocabulary whether they're enjoying Shakespeare or a contemporary classic, students will encounter unfamiliar words and phrases.
- **2 Tolerance** theatre is a platform for communicating positive messages about all members of society and prompting discussion about the treatment of minorities.
- 3 Empathy being exposed to characters in a range of situations helps students connect with others' feelings.
- 4 Confidence theatre workshops offer students the chance to share their ideas and perform in front of others.
- 5 Attention sitting through a play is a world away from watching TV while tapping on a mobile phone...
- 6 Communication actors are supreme communicators, and for children, applying what they've observed during a performance can be a valuable learning experience.
- **7 Collaboration** theatre workshops offer countless opportunities for students to work together to create and explore.
- 8 Creativity witnessing live theatre will add to the experiences pupils can call upon when producing their own work.
- 9 Social awareness theatre can increase understanding of the issues facing societies past and present, across the world.



# 12 QUESTIONS that will ruin your school trip

Wherever you're going, pray you don't hear these fateful queries...



Is it true that we should have brought our passports with us, sir?





**COMBIEN POUR UN PAQUET DES BANGERS?** (BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE PRACTISING THEIR FRENCH.)



Can you ask the driver to tune into Radio 1? Scott Mills is on!



**(6)** 

You'll come on the vertical-drop roller-coaster of doom, won't you, miss? (Maybe just avoid theme parks altogether.)

Miss, what's the best way to cure

sea sickness?



How long till we get to the next toilet? (Typically asked



five minutes after the last comfort break.)



Are you aware that the majority of Year 9 are currently purchasing duty free?



How long do you think the ferry will wait for us?



Is that herd of cows following us?



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