

RIVERSIDE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL JOURNEYS – SUMMER 2019

Six residential school journeys will have been held by the end of this academic year :

- 1. One trip to our link school in in Slovenia, Center za korekcijo sluha in Govora Portorož**
- 2. Three trips to Noah's Ark Children's Venture at Macaroni Wood in Gloucestershire catering for six teams**
- 3. One trip to East Grinstead– Duke of Edinburgh**
- 4. One trip to Dorking– Duke of Edinburgh**

The package of residentials was overhauled in 2016/17. The residentials that ran in 2017/2018 were more tailored, more adventurous and more enjoyable for staff and students as reported by staff. This year 2018/2019 the programme of residentials was amended to further enhance the offer to student and to run more economically.

1. A trip to our link school in Portoroz in Slovenia (Center za Korekcijo Sluha in Govora)

The trip to Slovenia ran from Tuesday to Friday (7th May to 10th May). For the 4th year in a row we linked up with our buddy special school in Slovenia. We joined them for their annual Art Festival Art DownUp. 5 students and 3 staff attended. For 2 students this was their first experience of travelling by aeroplane. For all students this was their first experience abroad without parents. The group flew to Trieste and then to Portoroz by school minibus.

The party were welcomed by Marco, the special school headteacher and his colleagues and students with excellent accommodation laid on. The group was led by Christopher Nelson Williams. The deputy lead Marta Kalsweska and additional support Mitchel Johnney had both previously attended this trip.

Visits were made to natural line caves, and art animation workshops held in historical buildings. The group made firm friends with the students in the host school. The Slovenian students visited in London in June and enjoyed a day at Riverside and the group joined up for a day in London at the Science Museum.

2. Three Trips to Noah's Ark Children's Venture at Macaroni Wood in Gloucestershire

This year there were a few changes made in planning the programme of Macaroni Woods residentials:

- In previous years the Macaroni Woods trip was on offer to all student whoever this lead to unmanageable student number. To reduce number of students invited to attend the invitation was made to only Yr 9, 10, 11 students.

- Student needs/ability was considered when planning the duration of each trip; Team 1 students stayed 3 nights, Team 3 students stayed 2 nights.
- Transport was considered thoroughly to reduce cost.

At the centre there are two available houses one of which is a specially adapted for students with complex physical disabilities so that we are able to offer places to all students regardless of their level of physical or learning disability.

During all trips to Macaroni Wood the emphasis is on broadening the experiences of our student and developing independence skills and developing social skills. Through communal cooking and the sharing of tasks, sports and leisure activities, and off-site trips students have a rich and exciting environment through which they can develop key life skill and make special memories. Activities also include barbecues and bonfires, cycling and local geography field trips. Many students have never spent a night away from home and/or outside London before going to Macaroni Wood.

The Noah's Ark Centre Manager is Marcus Scrivens and business lead Mark Smyth. Marcus provides our students with magical experiences, ranging from animal-care and feeding to night-walks under the stars. Marcus goes out of his way to facilitate staff and students during their stay at Macaroni Woods.

May 07.05.19, 08.05.19, 09.05.19, 10.05.19 Led by Julia Doyle			
Itinerary Swimming at Oasis Leisure Centre at North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1EP, hands on experience at the working rare breeds Cotswolds Farm Park at Guiting Power, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 5FL, onsite sports, cooking, cycling, walking, bonfire.			
Transport Davian Coach & Driver £1,140.00, Bus 4 and personal car.			
Student Group	Number of students	Number of staff	Attendance info
Team 1 Boys Mostly fully independent requiring moderate supervision	12	8	All students were able to attend.
Team 1 & 2 Girls	3	2	All students were able to attend.

June
10.06.19, 11.06.19, 12.06.19
 Led by Chris Nelson Williams

Itinerary hands on experience at the working rare breeds Cotswolds Farm Park at Guiting Power, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 5FL, onsite sports, cooking, cycling, playing indoor games due to rain

Transport Bus 2 & 4 and personal car

Student Group	Number of students	Number of staff	Attendance info
Team 3 Boys and Girls Non-verbal, full support needed to carry out all PC, and full supervision require to ensure safety	5		Initially 6 students were due to attend. 1 could not attend due to missing medication however this student joined the 12/13/14 trip.
Riverside Learning Centre Challenging behaviour, lack of sleep routine, require full supervision to ensure safety	2	3	Initially 4 students were due to attend. 2 could not attend. 1 due to illness 1 due to increase challenging behaviours which posed a risk to safety

June
11.06.19, 12.06.19, 13.06.19
 Led by Oona Bradley

Itinerary hands on experience at the working rare breeds Cotswolds Farm Park at Guiting Power, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 5FL, onsite sports, cooking, cycling, playing indoor games due to rain

Transport H&H Self Drive Hire Coach 17 seater, Brook Tail lift bus and personal car.

Student Group	Number of students	Number of staff	Attendance info
Team 4 Boys and Girls PMLD, wheel chair users with complex medical needs, non-verbal, full support required for all personal care needs,	2	4	4 students were due to attend. 2 students did not attend. 1 due to illness. 1 due to medical reasons.
Team 2 Boys Moderate learning difficulties, requiring supervision and some assistance with personal care routines	12		All students were able to attend.

3. One trip to East Grinstead– Duke of Edinburgh

Practice Expedition 26.06.19, 27.06.19, 28.06.19

— From Broadstone Warren Scout Camp, Lewes Rd, Forest Row RH18 5JS to Blackland Farm Guide Camp, Grinstead Ln, East Grinstead RH19 4HP

4. One trip to Dorking– Duke of Edinburgh

Qualifier Expedition 15.07.19, 16.07.19, 17.07.19

— From Henfold Lakes, Henfold Ln, Beare Green, Dorking RH5 4RW to Etherley Farm, Leith Hill Ln, Ockley, Dorking RH5 5PA

These 2 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expeditions are led by our Riverside staff, teacher Christopher Nelson Williams and TA, Sabina Cole along with two other supporting TAs. Also accompanying is Ben Bullen from DoE in the role of the expedition leader. Six students will attend both trips in order to gain the Silver Award. The students were largely involved in preparation for the expeditions. During the expedition the students, set up their tents, cook their meals. They have also plotted out the area and plan and undertake a hike along the expedition route.

Impact of residential school journeys programme:

The new programme which offers trips by Team rather than by age, has resulted in higher percentage attendance than ever before. This year's programme of residential saw TA's taking more leadership roles. TAs took on significant aspects of the planning and preparation aspects of the overall trip planning. TAs were able to manage the medical, activities and catering lead roles with great efficiency and energy.

Students and staff from all the trips fed back accounts of their experiences on the trips at a whole-school assembly on 21st June and parental feedback showed high levels of appreciation for these opportunities – students are more independent, better socialised and happier as a result of attending.

Kelly Whiting, Deputy Head, July 2019