

Charterhouse Summer Camp 2024

Year 7



OAKFIELD ACADEMY
BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

November 2023

Dear Parent,



The Charterhouse outdoor educational experience has been a tradition at Oakfield for many years. For next year, the Academy has been able to secure bookings for two Charterhouse trips from **Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th June & Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th June 2024.**

We are sending this letter out now so you can make the payment of a deposit to secure a place for your child taking part in this outdoor experience, making the planning of the visit easier and allowing for a longer time between payments.

WHAT IS CHARTERHOUSE?

Charterhouse is an outdoor education centre, situated on the top of the Mendips above Burrington Coombe. The main buildings are the converted old village school, and include the development of a £200,000 purpose-built eco-friendly accommodation block, which replaced old wooden huts. The block includes bedrooms, shower block, toilets and a security lock system to the main building.

The children have a 3 day (2 night) stay at the Centre with Oakfield staff. The 3 days are physically demanding, and will involve activities such as climbing, caving, archery, hill walking, bush craft and team-building exercises. We are also excited to be adding a water sports activity of paddle boarding this year.

WILL MY CHILD BE SAFE?

All activities are supervised by fully trained, qualified and experienced staff. However, because accidents can happen, we have included the cost of activity insurance in the price of the trip. (You are of course welcome to make your own/additional insurance arrangements for your child). The children are never off site unaccompanied and the staff never leave the children alone on site. We have a strict code that we follow, having to be extra-careful 'parents' for your child.



Oakfield Academy
Information Page

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@OakfieldAcorns

We take every care for the well-being of your child and that is why it is important for us to know about, and be fully prepared for, any medical condition that your child may suffer from. A form requesting this information will be sent out once you have paid a deposit and secured a place for your child on the trip. Over the years of leading groups we have found few problems that cannot be overcome.

WHAT ABOUT COVID-19?

Any relevant guidance to minimise risk at the time, will be adhered to.

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE?

The food at Charterhouse is very good and plentiful. There are cooked breakfasts as well as cereals and fruit juice. Pupils return to the centre for a cooked lunch such as pasta or sausage rolls with fruit. The evening meal, which may be pasta bake and salad, pie, chips and vegetables, toad in the hole and vegetables, or something similar, is followed by a pudding.

There is always a mug of hot chocolate before bed. Vegetarians and any special diets can be catered for; dietary information, along with medical information, will be requested in the Spring Term. Children will be expected to do general tidying up and help set up for meals.

WILL MY CHILD NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT?

NO. A duvet cover, pillowcase and a sheet are required or a sleeping bag with a sheet and pillowcase if preferred. A strong pair of shoes/trainers or walking boots are essential for the walk into Charterhouse and climbing. Wellingtons, and possibly gloves and woolly hats are required too. A **WATERPROOF COAT** is important and as many warm clothes as possible. Fashion does not count! We want the children to be warm and dry, with changes of clothes in case they get wet. Leggings and joggers are better than jeans as they allow flexibility whilst caving or climbing.

A full kit list will follow. Do not let your child talk you into buying new expensive gear. New shoes or boots could be painful and thus disastrous. Fashion shoes/daps and cropped tops are not suitable.

Due to the physical demands of Charterhouse it is recommended that your child has a healthy base level of physical fitness so they can fully enjoy and appreciate the 'Charterhouse Experience'. If in doubt please contact Miss Nightingale.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The trip will cost a total of **£250.00**. This includes transport, activities insurance, food, accommodation at the centre and all activities. We realise that this is a substantial amount. It is because of this that the letter is forwarded to you so far in advance.

We require a **£50.00** non-refundable deposit to secure your child's place on this trip **by 8th December**, further payments due as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| End of January | £50.00 |
| End of February | £50.00 |
| End of March | £50.00 |
| End of April | £50.00 |

Please note that places on this trip may be limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON REFUNDABLE.

WHY DO THE OAKFIELD STAFF RUN THE CHARTERHOUSE TRIPS?

For the staff who go to Charterhouse the workload and responsibility is massive. It is literally a 24-hour a day job and is optional – but staff still volunteer. Charterhouse often brings out the very best in children, and staff are sometimes surprised how pupils who have kept a low profile at school shine at camp. They have to learn to work together, each person helping to make the camp run smoothly so that everyone is happy and enjoys the experience. The children seem to grow up; we see them in a different light and they see that besides being teachers we are reasonably human!

Throughout the year we expect each child to behave responsibly and sensibly, this is also particularly the case on camp. Children at camp who misbehave may be sent home and their parents will be asked to collect them. Staff reserve the right to risk assess whether to take a child to Charterhouse whose behaviour at school gives cause for concern.

TO BOOK & PAY

PLEASE PAY AND GIVE CONSENT USING PARENTPAY

Log into ParentPay and choose “Pay for other items” and select “Charterhouse June 2024”. The link will allow you to give consent for your child to go on the trip. You will also be able to choose whether to pay for the trip in instalments or in one go.

If you have any problems with ParentPay or have not yet set it up, please contact Mrs Lodge in the Finance Office.

**The deadline for payment of the deposit of £50.00 to secure your child’s place is 8th December 2023.
Thank you.**

I am sorry this letter is so long, but we have tried to cover most of the main points. Finally, if there is anything that you wish to discuss with us before paying the deposit, please do not hesitate to contact the office. More information will of course follow over the coming months.



**Miss P Nightingale
Head of Year Seven
Charterhouse Trip Organiser**