

Winter term weekend activity and trips review

I have been delighted with the response to the many activities and trips that we have run this term. Thank you to those who signed up early using the booking sheet; this makes my job coordinating the organisation so much easier and is very much appreciated. Please also use my email tcashell@rydal-penrhos.com to book your child on a trip or to cancel a booking. As long as I get reasonable notice, there is no charge for withdrawal from a trip but, clearly, if a place is booked and I am unable to find a replacement at late notice, a charge will be made.

Being a keen statistician, may I offer some interesting facts about the winter term's activities: 32 activities were planned involving a potential 660 pupil places. 570 of these places were taken up by pupils, parents and staff. Boarding pupils utilised 65% of places with day pupils (25%) and staff, parents and prep pupils (10%) taking the remaining 35%. 20 out of 32 activities had 100% attendance. Of those that did not get filled up, one Mountain Day (6 places) was cancelled due to the unavailability of an instructor and 66 places were as a result of my booking too many seats at six theatre shows that we attended. Perhaps I was hoping for some greater level of support for high culture but only 4 people attended Mozart's Don Giovanni!

I would be delighted to receive suggestions for future trips but, in the meantime, here is a taste of what Rydal Penrhos offered over the course of the term.

Outdoor Education: There were three Duke of Edinburgh camps allowing pupils the opportunity to plan routes and survive camping out in Snowdonia. It was great to see a good



turn out from 9M as 9W and 9P have weekend D of E camps planned with Mr Proudlove next term. 9O will follow in the summer term. There were four days of white water kayaking and sea kayaking. Dr Roberts and Mr Baxter are really getting a fantastic following for this activity. The Junior climbing trip was full, as was the Senior Mountain Day, both activities led by Mark Hedge and Daz Williams who support the delivery of our Outdoor Education programme.

Sports visits: Mr Richardson and Sarah James continue their attempts to indoctrinate as many with three Manchester City and two Stoke City trips which were all fully subscribed. The Go-Karting saw 28 competing fiercely, including Miss Cater and Mrs Cashell but, for the third year running, the outright winner was Max Abt. The visit to the Top Gear show was a highlight for many, including Mr Farnell, Ken Hulme and Gaz who kindly escorted 25 pupils to Birmingham. Paintballing is always a popular activity and this time 46 pupils crammed into three mini-buses for the short journey to the St George's venue. A mini-bus full of pupils led by Mr and



Mrs Leach enjoyed a morning skating at Deeside before an afternoon visit to Chester whilst Sarah and Gaz took a full bus to Chill Factore for skiing and snowboarding. Dr Warrington and Mr Williams also took a group to Water World in Stoke on Trent for a great day at the slides complex.

Entertainment: Jimmy Carr clearly appealed to the Sixth formers who were chaperoned by Sarah whilst I continue to be amazed by the feats of the Cirque de Ciel and thoroughly enjoyed Calendar Girls – there were tears of laughter galore in this top show starring Lynda Bellingham, Jan Harvey and Joe McGann. Tommy Steele was the star of Scrooge and Mr Williams enjoyed his first Opera taking three charges to Don Giovanni. ‘Her Benny’ saw one of our own Year 8 pupils, Adele Parry, in the cast at the Rhyl Pavilion Theatre and Mrs Proudlove and the party she took thoroughly enjoyed the show. The 3D transformation of Aladdin was also a highlight and although many of your overseas boarders had never experienced a Panto, they have now!

Shopping: Despite never really seeing the value myself, all three big shopping trips were fully subscribed. The Trafford Centre (a late diversion from Liverpool 1 as the marathon was taking place on that day), Cheshire Oaks and the last weekend’s trip to Manchester City Centre which include the great outdoor Christmas market were bulging and booked up days, if not weeks in advance.

It continues to give me great pleasure to prepare such well supported and varied activities and I am most grateful for all those colleagues who run the trips.

Next term, there is a similar range of 22 activities including trips to the National Basketball finals day, Sale Sharks rugby fixtures, a senior boarding house trip to Edinburgh and two musical theatre trips to ‘The King and I’ and ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’ to mention but a handful.



Please do encourage your son or daughter to get involved and contact me at; tcashell@rydal-penrhos.com to book your child on a trip.

Have a wonderful Christmas

Kind regards

Tim Cashell