

20th June 2022

Dear Varndean Families

Barton Hall Enrichment Trip 11th-13th July

We are very excited to be running our Enrichment off site activity at Barton Hall PGL Centre this year and we hope it will be a fantastic end of the school year for your child. Below are some of the details that you will need to be aware of when organising your child for the trip. We have also made an [information video](#) that should answer any further questions you have.

Barton Hall is a PGL Activity centre situated in South Devon near Torquay. There's a heated outdoor pool, a watersports lake for a raft-building adventure and many other inspiring activities that will encourage our pupils to grow in confidence as they help and support each other. To find out more about the centre you can click on the link here to look at their [website](#).

Departing and arriving back to Varndean School

- We will leave Varndean School on the 11th July site at 7.30am, Students will need to be at school by 7.00am. We then estimate arriving at Barton Hall for 12.00pm, ready to start activities after settling in and lunch at 2.00pm.
- We will be leaving Barton Hall after lunch and morning activities at 1.30pm on 13th July, our estimated time of arrival back to Varndean School will be published on the website (we are aiming for 6.30pm), however we will keep parents and carers updated on the arrival time, again via the website.

During the activity trip

- Students will be in groups and take part in a range of activities throughout their time at the centre, these are both indoor and outdoor and include water based activities. So swimwear will be required. All activities are run by fully qualified and CRB checked PGL staff. Varndean staff will also be part of the groups taking part in activities.
- Student accommodation for the stay is in en suite rooms that sleep 4-10 in the main house and 4-6 in chalets. Students will need to bring their own bedding, we suggest a sleeping bag and a pillow. We will hold a short meeting during the school day prior to the trip for students to arrange rooms.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner is provided from a buffet style canteen and most dietary requirements can be provided for. Meals are freshly prepared, balanced to give pupils plenty of energy to keep them going throughout the day. It includes
 - A mix of hot and cold meals with vegetarian options

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- Self-service salad bar
- Fresh fruit with every meal

Other information

- A Kit list suggested by the Centre follows this letter. Please be mindful that students **SHOULD NOT** take expensive electronic items as these are not covered by insurance. Also that this is an activity trip so older clothing is advisable.

There is a presentation on the school website which should answer any further questions you have. If you could let us know if there are any specific dietary requirements or medication for your child as soon as possible we can then factor this to our preparation.

Thorpe Park - Thursday 14th July

On Thursday 14th July, students will visit **Thorpe Park** for the day. They will meet in the canteen at **8:15am**. We will be travelling by coach and expect to return to Varndean at 6:30pm-7:00pm depending on traffic. Students can bring a packed lunch or some money to buy lunch. Students entitled to free school meals can collect a packed lunch from the canteen before departure.

Many thanks

Sandra Knights & Andy Roberts

Kit list and information sheet Barton Hall 11th-13th July 2022

ROOMING

- Student rooms take between 4-10 students, all are en suite. Students' will be responsible for keeping their rooms tidy.
- Students will be in friendship groups from their tutor groups in the activity groups as far as possible. However they may share with students from other forms in rooms.
- Activity groups and rooms will be arranged before departure.

DIETARY AND MEDICAL ISSUES

- Barton Hall can provide diets for most students who have special diets, allergies, etc. Please make sure the school is aware of any special dietary needs your child may have on the medical sheet.
- Students will have breakfast, lunch and dinner for their stay.
- All instructors are First Aid qualified.
- Any student who needs to take medication during the camp should hand it in to the staff before leaving school.

MONEY

- There is a shop on site.
- Students should not bring more than £10 with them.

KIT LIST

When packing for the camp please remember that the weather can be variable and bring suitable clothing. It could be cold at night and it is possible that it may rain!



Students will need to bring the following:

- Activity and weather appropriate clothing eg leggings, tracksuit bottoms, jumpers. They will need long sleeved tops, trousers and socks for some activities
- Trainers or appropriate footwear for activities and the evening
- A complete change of clothing for watersports
- Waterproof coat/jacket
- A spare pair of rough shoes, trainers or water shoes for watersports (these will get wet, so will not be able to be used for activities as well)
- Small rucksack for the day
- Drink bottle/flask
- Minimum of 2 Towels (one for watersports) and wash kit
- Sunblock/sunscreen/hat
- Swimwear for swimming pool/watersports
- Sleeping bag or bedding and pillow
- Torch for evening activities
- Pyjamas and change of underwear
- A wash bag including soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste (please do not bring Aerosols)
- A bag for dirty clothing!

Students should not bring clothes which will be damaged by rough wear or dirt. Also please do not bring electrical devices / computer games, jewellery/valuables and aerosols.

Finally please be aware that if personal items such as phones and cameras are taken this is at the students' own risk. Also they **cannot be taken on activities**. These are NOT covered by the school's insurance policy in the event of loss or damage.