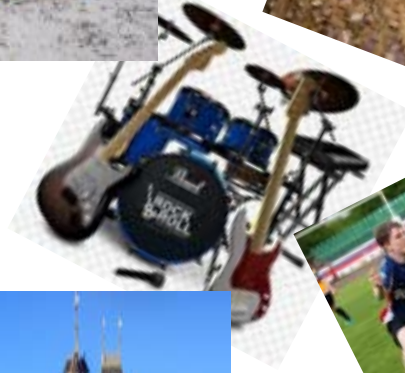


ACTIVITIES

WEEK

2024



ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024

Banchory Academy believes that a residential school trip or home-based activity forms a valuable part of a young person's overall educational experience. Such trips provide opportunities to develop independence, build teamwork skills, make new friends, improve social and interpersonal skills, work with teachers in a more relaxed atmosphere and experience a new environment and culture.

All S1–S3 pupils are being offered the opportunity to participate in an activity either within the UK or abroad.

This booklet provides general information on each of the residential and home-based activities on offer, and gives brief details about the destination, means of transport, accommodation and party leader. **The costs given are approximate as the final cost often depends on the exact number of pupils participating. It is quite possible, for example, that fuel surcharges may be imposed by coach operators and travel companies. THE FIRST DEPOSIT MUST BE PAID TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ON THE TRIP/ACTIVITY AND WILL BE NON-REFUNDABLE. Once your child has been confirmed on the activity, more information will be communicated regarding possible losses should your child decide to withdraw from the trip.**

Placing - The system we will employ again this year will give one choice, followed, for those without placing after the first choice, by a second choice, when we can inform pupils what is still available to them. At this point we hope to have placed the vast majority of pupils. This process gives young people and parents better information by which to make further choices and an earlier conclusion. The timeline below gives an idea of how this will look in terms of dates. **We cannot avoid disappointment to some, but we try to ensure that young people are given, if they wish, a residential experience at some point over the three years. It is important to understand that we do not have an endless supply of staff, and therefore places, to accommodate all choices each year. We do not operate on a basis of "first choice" but on a residential place.** No system is fool proof, but we hope we have improved the choice and placing process for all of us. We also hold a series of short meetings during extended intervals which allows party leaders easier access to all their group members.

The programme this session offers a range of home-based and residential trips. Old favourites are in place, but we have some new activities on offer this session that we are confident will attract a good response.

Two myths to dispel: we do not place youngsters on a first come first served basis - this seems to do the rounds every year. No-one is placed until the final day for forms to be returned and only once the party leader has finalised their own party. Secondly the idea that you can just opt out of Activities Week. **If you choose not to participate and do not attend school then an unauthorised absence will be placed against that pupil for the entire week.**

Kincardineshire Educational Trust (KET) Grant Aid for Educational Travel

Partial financial assistance may be available through application to the above Trust, submissions for which can be made online at [Kincardine and Mearns area funding - Aberdeenshire Council](#) (please scroll down to **Educational Travel**). Paper forms are also available on request from the School Office. Funding is not available for school-based activities – only for those trips which involve travel. All applications are means-tested, and appropriate documentary evidence of your income must be provided. Applications **must be received by the Trust by Thursday 30th November 2023**. You will be informed of the decision by June 2024. **We advise parents/carers to make full payment of the trip to the school whilst awaiting outcome of any application, as funding is very limited and applications may be unsuccessful.** Should funding be approved, the school will ensure that any payment due to the parent/carers will be issued promptly. Parents/carers who apply for the grant should advise the school office in confidence.

Payments

Some of you will be aware that for Activities Week 2023, we utilised online payments for trips via iPayimpact, as well as offering cash or cheque payments.

Unfortunately, a large number of Aberdeenshire schools (including ourselves) were affected by technical issues with the online payment system, for which a solution has not yet been found. *This means that we will revert to cash/cheque payments for Activities Week 2024.*

We believe that Activities Week is an important and stimulating part of our curriculum for all concerned. The staff work extremely hard to put together activities, usually the culmination of a year's work, that allow different experiences for the young people both at home and abroad and the pupils respond very positively.

Date	Action
W/b 11 th Sep	Choice form submitted by 11pm Tuesday 12 th September
W/b 2 th Oct	Monday 2 nd October pupils advised of placing by letter issued at Registration.
Thur 9 th Nov	Extended Interval for group meeting.
Fri 2 th Feb	Extended Interval for group meeting.
Fri 22 nd March	Extended Interval for group meeting.
Fri 10 th May	Extended interval for group meeting.

The activities available in 2024 are as follows:

Home Every Night	UK Residential	Overseas Residential
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adrenalin Rush• Arty Crafty• Days Here & There• Digital Photography• Equestrian Week• Golf• Lego Legends• Local Walks & Fishing• Music Week• Pi-lattes• Thrills & Spills• Try a Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• London• Tay Forth Wanderers• Galloway Activity Centre• Wales Bike Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adventure Ardeche• Amsterdam• Barcelona

After studying the activities on offer, parents should indicate their child's choice by completing and submitting the form (link in e-mail).

Please submit the form only once – if for any reason you wish to change the choice before 12th September, please email the school for advice.

Forms should be submitted by 11pm on **Tuesday 12th September 2023.**

In accordance with Health and Safety Policy, a risk assessment will be carried out on all activities by the group leader.

S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Brief Description:

An exciting week of activities designed to make your heart pound and your adrenaline to flow.

Sliding behind a tree as paintballs whiz overhead, providing cover for your teammates as you storm the



enemy base to capture the flag. Flying round the karting racetrack, overtaking your friends to take secure the win. Working together in a battle of wits to uncover the clues you need to escape. Balancing over icy waters to and paddling to score the last minute before the whistle in SUP Polo. Taking the challenging route up the wall before taking the quick way down, a 120m zip wire from the tower to the ground. On a Segway, will you keep your balance while all around you are losing theirs.



Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May to Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

Coach

Number of Pupils:

40

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-S3

Other Requirements:

-

Approx. Cost:

£275

Group/Party Leader:

Mr S Leiper



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination:

Adventure Ardeche
Let us take you on an adventure!

Brief Description:

During this week you will discover one of Europe's most breath-taking natural wildernesses as you complete the 36km river descent, taking in the bends and white waters of the Ardeche River. We will paddle in pairs through one of the most dramatic landscapes in France, with plenty of opportunities along the way to play, swim and picnic. During our days off the river, we will participate in a range of activities from high ropes, SUP, raft building and hiking.



Check out the YouTube clip to see more

[Adventures in the Ardeche Multi activity school and family holidays in the south of france - YouTube](#)

During our week we will be staying in at Rouviere, situated close to the Ardeche gorge and the Pont d'arc site.

[Rouviere les pins | \(adventureardeche.com\)](#)

Inclusive Dates:

Saturday 18th May to Sunday 26th May 2024

Transport:

Executive Coach

Number of Pupils:

44

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-3

Other Requirements:

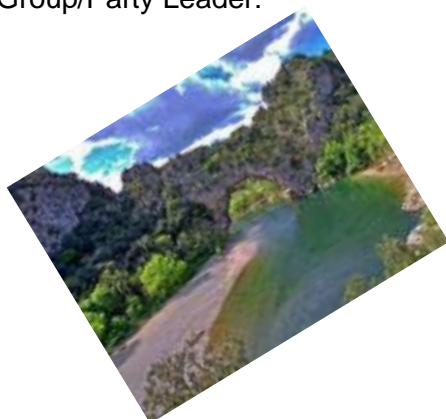
Water confident – ability to swim

Approx. Cost:

£885

Group/Party Leader:

Mr Petrie



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Amsterdam

Brief Description:



We are returning again to Amsterdam and the Dutch Coast to explore the culture and sights of Amsterdam. We plan to explore the amazing museums of Amsterdam, visit the great markets, take a boat tour of the world-famous canals, visit the always-amusing Cheese and Clog farm and take a tour of Camp Vought. In the evening we will have time for ten-pin bowling and visits to some local towns on the coast. Expect pancakes, stroopwafels, cheese and clogs as we explore this great city.

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May – Saturday 25th May 2024

Transport:

Executive Coach and overnight ferry to destination from Hull/Newcastle

Number of Pupils:

40

Eligible Year Groups:

S2/3

Other Requirements:

S3 & S2



Approx. Cost:

£800

Group/Party Leader:

Mr Bentley





S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Arty Crafty

Brief Description:

Join us for a relaxing week of arts and craft activities inspired by different films and animations. Enjoy activities such as making pom-pom trees, felt and wood decorations, painted stones and papercraft flowers. If you are skilled in other crafts we can give those a go too!

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024
during school time

Number of Pupils:

12 - 15

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-S3

Other Requirements:

You may bring your own art or craft supplies, but you will be responsible for them.

Approx. Cost:

No cost

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Burnett and Mrs Jamieson





S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20nd May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Barcelona

Brief Description:

We are running an exciting trip to Barcelona - a culture-rich city in the heart of Spain with much to see and do. We will be visiting the Sagrada Familia church, exploring Parc Guell, dropping by the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya and going on a boat trip from the Port of Barcelona. We will also be trying out some flamenco dancing and visiting the PortAventura theme park. The tour will focus on exploring the taste of Spain's cuisine through tapas tasting in Poble Espanol as well as touring the Nou Camp stadium. With all this and so much more to do this is bound to be an adventure packed trip.



Inclusive Dates:

Saturday 18 – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

Flight and Coach.

Number of Pupils:

40



Eligible Year Groups:

S2-3

Other Requirements:

There will be a lot of walking during this trip, and we will be eating at many exciting and authentically Spanish restaurants.

Approx. Cost:

£1100

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs F Lockwood



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination:

Days Here & There

Brief Description:

A variety of day trips in the local area. These might include a visit to Codonas Amusement arcade, Rockwall and fitness classes at RGU Sport, Museums, Ice skating, Trampolining, Tubing and Cinema in and around Aberdeen.

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May - Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

Coach



Number of Pupils:

Maximum of 29 pupils

Eligible Year Groups:

S1, S2 and S3

Other Requirements:

No particular ability required but some of the activities will require a basic level of fitness.

Approx. Cost:

£180



Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Bews / Mrs Petrie





S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20nd May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination:

Digital Photography

Brief Description:



Working with a professional photographer for the week, you will develop or improve your digital photography skills and build up your portfolio.

You will be out on location to a variety of photo opportunities including coastal settings, city parks and the countryside.

You may also be using studio lighting for portrait work, create still life images and have the opportunity to shoot some light painting. You may have the opportunity to explore using your phone camera effectively.

Throughout the week pupils will learn editing skills. The week finishes with pupils selecting their best shots in a range of categories and creating an exhibition which is judged to find the winner for each category.

Inclusive dates:

Monday 18 May – Friday 22 May 2024

Transport:

Minibus

Number of pupils:

14

Eligible year groups:

S1-3

Other requirements:

Pupils taking part must have a **DSLR** camera, preferably with Manual, Aperture and Shutter settings. It would also be useful to have a **tripod** for slow shutter speed work.

Approx. cost:

£100

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Matheson



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination: **Equestrian week at Glen Tanar Equestrian Centre, Aboyne**



Brief Description:

This is a non-residential trip for anyone who loves spending time with horses! This trip is suitable for pupils who have never ridden before to pupils who have been riding for years. Pupils will be divided into groups of riding ability and your day will comprise of a riding lesson, hacking and stable management. The stable management will involve learning how to groom, lead and tack up a horse. The hacks will take place in and around the beautiful countryside of Glen Tanar Estate. On the last day there will be the chance to put your riding skills to the test in a Gymkhana!



Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th - Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

minibus

Number of Pupils:

16

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-S3

Approx. Cost:

£525

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Meston

S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination: **Galloway Activity Centre**

Brief Description: Water sports galore on the beautiful Loch Ken. You will have the opportunity to try sailing, kayaking and windsurfing before choosing your favourite to become more competent. There will be plenty of other activities to enjoy too, such as laser tag, abseiling, quizzes and more. This is a really active week and lots of fun!

Inclusive Dates: Monday 20th – Friday 24th May

Transport: Coach

Number of Pupils: 45

Eligible Year Groups: S1 – 3

Other Requirements: Ability to swim and confidence in the water. You will also need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow. Wetsuits are provided although you can bring your own if you wish.

Approx. Cost: £420

Group/Party Leader: Mr Rankin / Mr Cordiner





S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Golf Tour

Brief Description:

An opportunity to improve your golf skills at the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre (professional coaching and 18 holes of golf) and then play golf at the Aboyne, Braemar and Stonehaven golf courses. Your tour will be completed at the St. Andrews links with a round of golf on the Strathtyrum Course, putting on the world famous 'Himalayas' putting green and a visit to the R&A World Golf Museum.

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

Minibus (a total of 4 day trips – no overnight stays)

Number of Pupils:

12

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-S3

Other Requirements:

Some previous golf experience. Provide your own golf equipment (although we will endeavour to source golf clubs if you do not have access to any).

Approx. Cost:

£295

Group/Party Leader:

Mr Blakey



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination: **Lego Legends**

Brief Description: This option will mimic the popular reality TV show 'Lego Masters', with a series of daily building challenges, as well as stop-motion animation and access to the Lego WeDo 2.0 kits. There will be individual and team tasks, and prizes to be won. Who will be a Lego Legend?

Inclusive Dates: Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport: N/A

Number of Pupils: 20

Eligible Year Groups: S1-S3



Other Requirements: Creativity, curiosity, and lots of enthusiasm!

Approx. Cost: £20

Group/Party Leader: Mrs Burt



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Local Walks and Fishing

Brief Description:

A series of day walks exploring our surrounding area in Deeside and two days of fishing. The walks will be gentle quite chilled days out in the natural environment with some nature-based art activities too.



At Raemoir Trout Fishery we will spend a couple of days learning to fly-fish for rainbow trout as well as learning all about the insect life that they feed on. It's an exciting opportunity as there are some really big fish in those ponds!

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport:

Walking from the school, plus perhaps the use of public transport with travel card

Number of Pupils:

12



Eligible Year Groups:

S1 - S3

Other Requirements:

Enjoy walking; suitable clothing for all weathers.

Approx. Cost:

£30

Group/Party Leader:

Mr Mather

S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination: **London**

Brief Description: A busy and fun trip to London exploring the sites of the city. The week will include a flight on the London Eye, a visit to the Tower of London, Natural History Museum and Madame Tussauds, a Thames River Cruise, an afternoon at Covent Garden and tickets to a West End Show

Inclusive Dates: Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport: Coach

Number of Pupils: 40

Eligible Year Groups: S1-S3

Other Requirements: -

Approx. Cost: £670

Group/Party Leader: Mrs Shepherd



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination: **Music Week**

Brief Description: A bespoke week of music activities. Want to learn to play guitar, drumkit or keyboards better? Would you like to spend a week singing? Would you like to form a band or just come and enjoy playing your favourite instrument? This will be a week of music designed to meet your needs. We may find a relevant movie or two that we can enjoy. The music department will be there for your enjoyment! You will be able to try Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Guitar and Bass Guitar.

Inclusive Dates: Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024

Transport: N/A

Number of Pupils: 20

Eligible Year Groups: S1 – S3

Other Requirements: Enjoy music!

Approx. Cost: Free

Group/Party Leader: Mr Bruce



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination:

Pi-lattes



Brief Description:



The group will plan a chilled week of cooking and Pilates. This could include anything from sourdough bread, to cupcakes, smoothies to lattes and the Pilates sessions can be a mixture of challenging strength exercises and relaxing releases.

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024



Transport:

Not required

Number of Pupils:

12

Eligible Year Groups:

S1 – S3



Other Requirements:

None, although favourite recipes and your own exercise mat are welcome if you have them.

Approx. Cost:

£50

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Stewart



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20nd May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Tay Forth Wanderers

Brief Description:



Taking in some local sites on 2 days on Deeside, we will depart later in the week to Dundee and Stirling for 2 or 3 overnights (tbc). We will take in some of the best tourist and cultural sites around the Tay and Forth areas and enjoy a range of Scottish tourism and educational visits. This trip is ideal for those who want to go away but not wander too far from home. We hope to visit some, or all, of the following: V&A, Discovery, Verdant Works, Dundee Water Park, Stirling Castle, the Wallace Monument, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Nature Walks and a shopping outlet store. We will have an evening meal out in a restaurant and enjoy some local specialities on the way.

Inclusive Dates:

Mon 20th – 24th May 2024. At least 2 days will be in the local area on Deeside and the remaining 3 days around Dundee and Stirling.

Transport:

Bus/Coach or Rail tbc

Number of Pupils:

20

Eligible Year Groups:

S1 – S3



Other Requirements:

Pocket money which will be determined in due course.

Approx. Cost:

£350

Group/Party Leader:

Ms Ellson





S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination:

Thrills and Spills

Brief Description:

If watery adventures thrill you, then this is the activity to choose! We can go sea kayaking, river canoeing, rock scrambling with coasteering or climbing, paddle boarding and gorge walking. All activities take place locally and all equipment will be provided, by Adventure Aberdeen, based in Kingswells. Just bring a packed lunch and the spirit of adventure! No experience necessary.

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May

Transport:

Minibus

Number of Pupils:

16

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-S3



Other Requirements:

Water confidence and ability to swim (buoyancy aids will be worn).

Approx. Cost:

£310 (including transport costs & equipment)

Group/Party Leader:

Mrs Batchelor



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20nd May – Friday 24th May 2024



Activity/Destination: **'Try a Sport Week'**

Brief Description:

A fun action-packed week of sporting activities within the school including football, touch rugby, badminton, rounders, table tennis, basketball and so much more. This is a fully inclusive week. Therefore, we want to encourage all levels of ability to come along and have a go, and the best bit is it will be completely free!

Inclusive Dates:
2024

Monday 20nd May – Friday 24th May

Transport:

N/A

Number of Pupils:

20

Eligible Year Groups:

S1 – S3

Other Requirements:

N/A

Approx. Cost:

zero

Group/Party Leader:

Mr Biggart and Mr Wylie



S1 – S3 ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May 2024

Activity/Destination: **Wales Bike Park**



Brief Description:

Experienced mountain biker? Love flying down the trails? Then this trip is for you! We will be travelling down to Wales for 4 days of adrenaline packed biking. Days 1 and 2 will be all mountain/enduro days riding some of the best trails in South Wales. Days 3 and 4 we will go to the UK's premier bike park (Bike Park Wales) where we will be making the most of the uplift service and world class trails!

Inclusive Dates:

Monday 20th - Friday 24th May 2024 (late Friday evening)

Transport:

Minibus

Number of Pupils:

21

Eligible Year Groups:

S1-3

Other Requirements:

Must have experience riding challenging single-track trails downhill. Must also own an all mountain/enduro bike that is serviced and suitable for challenging trails. These will both be checked before admission to the trip.

Approx. Cost:

£460

Group/Party Leader:

Mr King

