



Dear parents and carers of Year 7,

I would like to confirm the arrangements for the forthcoming residential retreat to Alton Castle. Your child has been allocated group 1. Students in group 1 will attend Alton Castle and from Monday 20th September – Wednesday 22nd September with a trip to Alton Towers included on Wednesday.

Students in group 1 will need to arrive at school for the normal start time of 8.50am and will leave school at 9.30am to travel to Alton Castle by coach. Students will require a packed lunch on this day. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, a packed lunch will be provided. Students in group 1 can wear their own clothes on this day.

Students will need to bring the following items with them:

- Sleeping bag and pyjamas
- Personal toiletries (including toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Spending money for tuck shop whilst at Alton Castle + spending money for Alton Towers
- T-shirts
- Underwear
- 3 pairs of loose-fitting trousers (leggings or joggers)
- 2 warm long-sleeved jumpers
- 1 waterproof coat
- 2 pairs of walking socks, pair of wellies or walking boots (there are some wellies available to borrow if necessary)
- 1 pair of old trainers (to be worn outside - they will get muddy)
- 1 pair of indoor shoes (trainers are ideal)
- Water bottle
- Torch (optional)

Students are permitted to bring a mobile phone but neither the school nor Alton castle can accept any responsibility for loss or damage. All meals are provided at Alton Castle for the duration of the retreat but your child is welcome to bring additional snacks.

On Wednesday 22nd September, students will leave Alton Castle after breakfast to travel to Alton Towers by coach. A packed lunch will be provided by Alton Castle for this day.

Students will be picked up from Alton Towers at 4.30pm with an arrival time back at St Thomas More for approximately 6pm. Your child will update you with our expected arrival time on the day should we encounter any traffic.

If you have any other queries, please check the Kenelm Youth Trust website and the Alton Castle “manage your trip” page for any further information needed and FAQ’s. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you have any queries.

I am confident that your child will have a wonderful time on the retreat where they will continue to develop the new friendships they have made since joining St Thomas More.

Kind regards,

Mr S Bown

Head of Year 7