



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

KH/JE

08 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 7,

We are delighted to inform you that arrangements have been made for a two-day residential visit to **Ford Castle in Northumberland**, delivered in partnership with PGL. The trip will take place from **Monday 15th March to Wednesday 17th March 2027**.

We have had 2 previous successful visits, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this exciting opportunity to our Year 7 pupils once again.

Ford Castle, steeped in history, once played a key role in defending the English border and has witnessed centuries of skirmishes, noble rivalries, and even hosted James IV of Scotland before his final battle. Today, the castle provides a truly unique backdrop where pupils can take part in a wide range of adventure activities, including archery, zip wire, abseiling, orienteering, and much more.

This opportunity is open to all Year 7 pupils. Please note, however, that spaces are limited to 90 places. Once these have been filled, we will operate a waiting list and notify parents/carers accordingly.

The total cost of the residential is **£180.00**, which covers return coach travel, full board accommodation, and a varied programme of activities. To secure a place, a non-refundable **deposit of £60.00** must be paid by **Friday 25th September 2026**. The remaining balance can then be paid in **three instalments of £40.00** each, due by **1st November 2026, 1st December 2026, and 1st February 2027**.

As with all enrichment opportunities, participation is dependent on pupils meeting our school's high expectations of conduct. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Attendance of at least 95% (with consideration given to medical circumstances supported by evidence).
- Good punctuality to school and lessons (no more than 15 late marks).
- A positive behaviour record, showing more merits than sanctions and a low number of negative points.
- No repeat Reflection Room placements and no suspensions.
- No incidents of bullying or repeated unkindness towards others.

Further information will be provided once places have been confirmed. In the meantime, parents and carers who would like to learn more about the venue can visit Ford Castle PGL's website.

We are confident this trip will provide pupils with a truly memorable experience - one that not only develops confidence and resilience but also strengthens friendships and creates lasting memories of their Year 7 journey.

Yours sincerely,

K. Hardy

Kim Hardy
Assistant Head Teacher

C. Moore

Claire Moore
Head of Learning