

Residential Visit 2022 – PGL Torquay (Barton Hall)

A Stunning Setting & Excellent Conditions

The children enjoyed a glorious week of sunshine on the beautiful English Riviera. Barton Hall's location - set within 46 acres of grounds overlooking Torbay - created an immediate sense of adventure. The accommodation, complete with en-suite rooms, added extra excitement, as pupils shared rooms with friends while being carefully supervised by staff throughout.

A Rich, Varied Programme of Activities

The week was packed with a wide range of challenging and exhilarating activities designed to push pupils physically, mentally, and socially. These included:

- Raft building – teamwork, problem-solving and water confidence
- Abseiling – developing courage and trust
- Climbing – goal-setting and perseverance
- Orienteering – navigation, communication and outdoor skills
- Archery and archery tag – focus, precision and self-discipline
- Rifle shooting – control, awareness and responsibility
- Jacob's Ladder – facing fears with encouragement from peers
- Zip wire – confidence, excitement and achievement
- Giant swing – teamwork, bravery and shared experience

Every activity gave pupils the chance to challenge themselves, support one another, and develop confidence in new and unfamiliar contexts.

Personal Development & Learning Beyond the Classroom

The impact of the residential on pupils' personal development was profound:

- **Independence**
Pupils learned to organise themselves, look after their belongings, keep their rooms tidy, and manage their own routines - often for the first time. These small but significant responsibilities helped them mature in noticeable ways.
- **Resilience**
Activities pushed pupils outside their comfort zones. Whether it was stepping off the abseiling wall, trying riflery, or jumping from the Leap of Faith, pupils discovered inner courage and celebrated personal triumphs.
- **Teamwork & Communication**
Many experiences required collaboration - building rafts, navigating orienteering routes, or encouraging a friend on a challenging climb. Pupils developed stronger communication skills and forged deeper, more supportive relationships.
- **Leadership**
Throughout the week, children naturally stepped into leadership roles: offering encouragement, helping organise equipment, or guiding their team through challenges. Their confidence in leading others grew day by day.
- **Friendship & Community**
After long periods of disruption and online learning, the chance to spend a week together - laughing, exploring, overcoming fears - was invaluable. Pupils returned more connected, more confident, and more positive about themselves and one another.

Behaviour & Representation of the School

Throughout the entire week, the children were a credit to both their families and the school. Their behaviour, curiosity, kindness, and enthusiasm were consistently praised by PGL staff. They embraced every challenge with determination and represented the school with pride.

A Memorable, Transformational Experience

Our residential was far more than an exciting adventure; it played a crucial role in pupils' wellbeing and character development after a time when such opportunities had been unavailable. The week built resilience, independence, teamwork, and confidence - qualities that will support the children not just in school, but throughout their lives.

It truly was a week of sunshine, laughter, learning, and unforgettable memories.

P&F Photo Diary



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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