



# St Thomas Becket

Catholic Primary School

Birchanger Road  
London SE25 5BN

Headteacher  
**Noel Campbell**

Tel: (020) 8654 3006

**8 June 2022**

## Year 6 Residential

**Ref: Cancellation of Year 6 residential trip.**

Dear parents/carers,

It is with great sadness that I need to inform you, that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this year our planned and scheduled Year 6 residential has been cancelled by Kingswood. I received a phone call from the Business Development Manager at Grosvenor Hall late yesterday and a follow up email which I am sharing with you.

Dear Mr Campbell

As you already know from our earlier conversation today, we need to cancel your upcoming trip to Kingswood. I can only apologise for the disappointment and upset this will cause.

It is an unthinkable situation for us all and goes against everything we aspire to be – however our commitment is to deliver the best possible quality in the safest environment and, as a consequence of severe staffing challenges, we simply cannot guarantee those two elements.

We currently have 140 team members awaiting DBS clearance, many of them for up to six weeks. This process is entirely outside of our control; we have waited in good faith for the government departments responsible to clear the backlog, but they haven't. And that is why we are in this situation.

Like many companies in our sector and beyond, we are operating in an incredibly difficult staffing environment. We have invested significantly in our pay and recruitment process over the past year and our HR team has been largely successful in securing suitable candidates which makes this situation all the more unacceptable.

Once again, I'm sorry that we are in this position.

**Ian Overhead**

Business Development Manager  
Grosvenor Hall

Regardless of the company's reasons, our own frustrations and, I'm sure, disbelief, that a responsible school residential company could cancel such an important trip with virtually no notice, this will pale into insignificance compared to the children's disappointment at the way events have unfolded this week.

With that in mind we will try to mitigate as much as we can in terms of providing some fun events for our Year 6 children. Therefore, we are proposing the following:

- Thursday 16 June - Trip to Canterbury Cathedral (as already planned)
- Friday 17 June - Trip to Box Hill National Trust site (nature study and outdoor learning)  
Coach leaving at 9.30am and returning to school at approximately 4.00pm

Year 6 teachers will be sending a letter this week with details about the Box Hill trip and what children need to bring.

- Friday 17 June (evening) - Sleepover at Thomas Becket School (boys and girls in different sleeping areas inside the buildings)  
Evening meal and drinks provided / movie in hall / outdoor sports
- Saturday 18 June- Breakfast between 7.00 and 8.00am  
Outdoor play afterwards
- Parents to pick up children from school at 11.00am on Saturday morning

Further details of the sleepover - staffing / what children will need to bring – will be provided later this week.

[If you wish your child to stay for the sleepover at St Thomas Becket School on Friday 17 June- please follow this link to give your consent.](#)

## **Costs**

Kingswood have promised us a full refund so parents will not lose any of the money already paid for the residential element. We have been able to cancel the coaches booked to take the classes to Grosvenor House.

We have recalculated the cost to parents to include the two day-trips and Friday night sleepover with food. This comes to a total of **£55.00 per child.**

This means that a refund of **£145.00** is due to all parents who have already paid in full. Our finance officer will be in touch with parents to action the refunds.

As a school, we have tried our best to ensure our Year 6 children experience those end of primary school milestones that have been a tradition for so long. This year we have been thwarted twice with regard to the residential element. After breaking the news to the children today, they have reacted very maturely and overwhelmingly positively and are especially looking forward to the sleepover. They will, however, be keenly focussed on their parents' reaction to this news so I'd ask that we all focus on the fun of the two planned trip days and the sleepover and try and move the children on from the disappointment of the loss of the Grosvenor House experience.

Thank you for your understanding in this difficult matter.

Yours sincerely,



Noel Campbell  
Head teacher