SCHOOL NAME – Parents and Carers Date: 10 January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers from SCHOOL NAME,

I am delighted that you are considering supporting SCHOOL NAME’S visit to CENTRE NAME in XXXX.

Each year we are visited by around 14,000 young people, and they all take on a challenge. For some, the challenge is about staying away from home – perhaps for the first time - while for others it might be about creating artwork and sharing it with friends, or climbing a mountain, or abseiling from a height. Whatever the challenge is, something we want for all our visitors is a life-enriching experience filled with discovery, adventure, exploring new places, creative arts and a residential journey. The benefits of those experiences to learning, life skills, relationships and health are well documented and compelling. We really feel that after missing out on so many experiences during Covid-19, a school visit with an overnight stay is more valuable than ever.

There is of course an element of risk in any activity, and we take very seriously our responsibility to manage risk, and to care for visitors. That extends, currently, to managing the risks associated with Covid-19.

Our centres follow strict guidelines and external accreditation, as well as Sandwell Council’s Health & Safety Framework. We can deliver “Covid-safe” residential and day visits within the guidelines currently in place, and we continue to retain many additional measures - such as enhanced cleaning routines and social distancing for our staff. Visits will only go ahead if we are confident that we can safely deliver them at the time of the visit.

SCHOOL NAME children will have sole-occupancy of the accommodation, i.e. not mixing with other groups. We have support and guidance from colleagues in Public Health, Educational Visits, and Educational Psychology around the council, and the visit is planned in partnership with the teachers at SCHOOL NAME.

Some quite fantastic things can happen when young people take on the challenge of being away from home, trying new things, and sharing fun experiences with others. We are grateful to SCHOOL NAME for providing the opportunity to work alongside you, and I do hope that we are able to welcome your children and young people to the centres so.

With thanks and best wishes,



**Richard Oakes**

Manager, Sandwell Residential Education Service