St Catherine's School Residential Trips Overview

This document was updated Summer 2026 and is designed to give parents an overview of residential trips which have taken place in recent years and so what may be available to their daughters as they progress through the Senior School. For more information about the trips please look below the table for a short description of each trip.

	Autumn Term	Xmas	Spring Term	Easter Holiday	Summer term	Summer Holiday
Major events	*Middle school production (alternate years)* *St Cat's Day, Carol Service*		*U5/U6 Mocks* *Senior or Whole School production*		*Public exams* *School Exams* *Activities Week & Speech Day*	*GCSE & A2 results days*
Upper 3	U3,L4 Netball Tour (biennial)				Activities Week - residential trip in the South Downs	Lanzarote multi-sports tour
Lower 4	U3,L4 Netball Tour (biennial)			Ski Trip – French Alps JBOA (Organists only)	Activities Week – Bannau Brycheiniog	Lanzarote multi-sports tour
Upper 4				Ski Trip – French Alps Lacrosse Tour (biennial- next trip Easter 2027) JBOA	Battlefields Trip Activities Week Expedition (N. Downs) DofE Bronze assessment	Music Tour (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Lanzarote multi-sports tour
Lower 5	Classics trip Classics trip (biennial- next trip October half term 2027)			Lacrosse Tour (biennial- next trip Easter 2027) Drama trip to USA (bi/triennial) JBOA	D of E Silver Practice Activities Week Residential (Cultural heritage) Languages trips	Music Tour (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Lanzarote multi-sports tour
Upper 5	Art/HoA trip (bie nnial) Classics trip Classics trip (biennial- next trip October half term 2027)			Drama trip – International, (bi/triennial- next trip Easter 2028) JBOA	Activities Week - D of E Silver Assessed Expedition	Music Tour (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Lanzarote multi-sports tour Model UN trip to Geneva (biennial – next trip summer 2028) Edinburgh Fringe (occasional)
Lower 6	Geography field trip *Work experience Week* Languages trips Art/HoA trip (biennial) Classics trip Classics trip (biennial- next trip October half term 2027)			Physics trip to CERN (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Drama trip to USA (bi/triennial next trip Easter 2028) JBOA D of E Gold Training & Practice		Music Tour (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Lanzarote multi-sports tour L6 Expedition Gold DofE Assessed Expedition Model UN trip to Geneva (biennial – next trip summer 2028) Edinburgh Fringe (occasional)

Upper 6	Biology Field Languages trips Art/HoA trip (biennial) Classics trip Classics trip (biennial- next trip October half term 2027)			Physics trip to CERN (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Drama trip to USA (bi/triennial - next trip Easter 2028) JBOA		Music Tour (biennial – next trip summer 2027) Lanzarote multi-sports tour Model UN trip to Geneva (biennial – next trip summer 2028) Edinburgh Fringe (occasional)

U3/L4 Netball Tour: Departing the first week of October half term for five days and four nights. Non-selective tour for new U3 and L4s to a Netball Festival in La Manga, Spain.

4th Form Ski Trip: First week of the Easter Break. One week, open to any L4/U4, all standards from complete beginners to expert skiers.

Lanzarote Multi sports Tour: One week in late August, swimming and tennis. This is a non-selective sports tour, available to all year groups**.** This trip generally goes ahead annually.

Music Tour: 4 nights, departing immediately after the end of Summer Term. Open to musicians from U4 upwards. Recent destinations have included Salzburg, Malta, Ireland, Prague, Slovenia and Sweden. The group perform a series of concerts and sing in church services, and there are plenty of opportunities for cultural visits.

Battlefields Trip: Early in the summer term, the entire U4 cohort take two days out of school to undertake an overnight trip to the Great War battlefields in Belgium. Whilst supporting the History curriculum, this has a much broader impact and we consider it to be a very important cultural experience for all our young people. It is therefore funded directly from fees; no additional charge is made.

Lacrosse Tour: Departs immediately after the end of the spring term. Selected team players travelling to the USA (Lacrosse) for an 8- 10 day tour. (It is occasionally combined with netball in the Caribbean after the US part of the tour). The lacrosse tour gives players the chance to compete in matches against American high schools, take part in coaching sessions, and enjoy a range of exciting excursions. It offers a great balance of competitive sport, skill development, and cultural experience.

Languages trips: L5 GCSE students attending language classes, as well as cultural visits in France or Spain.

Classics trip: A short residential trip to locations such as Rome, Athens, Siciliy with guided tours of significant sites from the Classical World. Offered to GCSE and A level students, extended to any others with an interest if spaces are available.

Drama Trip: GCSE Drama and A2 theatre studies students, a cultural trip which will take including some productions. Offered to GCSE and A level students, extended to any others with an interest if spaces are available. Departs at the start of the Easter Holiday.

The Jennifer Bate Organ Academy: A residential hosted at St Cat's for organists from St Cats and other schools who apply to join the course. The event includes masterclasses from prestigious visiting organists as well as opportunities to play and listen to each other. Using the two organs at St Cat's and visiting local churches & Guildford Cathedral. Takes place in the middle of the Easter Hols (depending on when the Easter Weekend falls).

Art & History of Art trip: 3-night residential trip to destinations such as Florence or Paris to visit galleries & other cultural destinations, with expert guides. Offered to GCSE and A level students, extended to any others with an interest if spaces are available.

Physics Trip to CERN: A level physicists have an opportunity for a 2-night trip to Switzerland to see and find out more about the Large Hadron Collider. Departs immediately after the end of term.

Edinburgh Fringe: A level Theatre Studies groups have sometimes been able to take their work to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, depending on its quality and their commitment to such a challenge. Late August.

Geography Field Trip: 2-night residential trip to Devon which is a course requirement for A level geographers. Mid-September

U6 Biology Field Trip: (2-night residential trip to Devon which is a course requirement for A level biologists), will need to be added to the Autumn Term. This will run Fri-Sun and takes place beginning of October.

L6 Expedition: Prestigious, flagship Sixth Form opportunity. 18-day expedition to a developing word destination, for cultural experiences, remote trekking and a volunteering project in a local community. Recent destinations include: 2022- Borneo, 2023 – Cambodia, 2024 – Tanzania, 2025 – Ecuador. Open to anyone in L6, departing first weekend after the end of the summer term.

D of E: Bronze award – 2-night training and assessed expedition in U4 activities week. Not too far away!

Silver Award – 2-night practice expedition over a weekend following school exams in L5. 1 day training and 2 night assessed expedition during U5 activities week. Typically South Downs area.

Gold Award – 3-night training and practice expedition in the Whitsun (May) half term hols L6, 4 night assessed expedition in Activities Week. Typically, Dartmoor & Mid Wales.

Activities week: Activities week is the last full week of the summer term, typically the first week in July, Monday – Friday followed by Speech Day on Saturday. Activities week for U3 – L5 is funded from fees; there is not additional charge. The U4 Battlefields trip is similarly funded.

U3 have a two-night camping trip to Midhurst. The rest of the week involves some very diverse activities on site at School.

L4 travel to Wales for a week of challenging outdoor activities. They stay in dorms (or possibly luxury bell-tents!) at a specialist residential centre deep in Bannau Brycheiniog.

U4 have two days of activities in school and a three-day expedition, which includes D of E training for those choosing to enrol for the Bronze Award (usually almost everyone!).

L5 have a 3 day residential trip. The other two days are based in school for the SATRO Business Challenge and 'Future You' Day

U5 D of E silver award candidates undertake their assessed expedition. Those not involved in D of E undertake a local conservation environmental volunteering programme with the Wey & Arun Canal Trust.

L6 focus on university research and application planning. Gold D of E candidates will undertake their qualifying expedition.