Castle Hill and Outdoor Education Programme

Years 9–13
Castle Hill Outdoor Centre

The St Andrew's College Outdoor Education Programme has been delivering high-quality experiences in the outdoor environment for the past 29 years.

We work with every student at the College from Years 7–10. Each year, the entire year group visits Castle Hill in classes of 26, for between three and five days. This allows us to build a clear progression into the programme, from the first independent adventures away from home through to three-day expeditions and snow caving.

Attendance at the Year 9–10 camps is expected for all students.





During Years 7–10, students will discover a lot about themselves during their annual excursions to the Lodge. They will learn the importance and art of decision making and taking responsibility for their actions, develop leadership skills and realise the value of working as a team. They will acquire skills that will help them in the classroom and in life beyond school. And they will have a lot of fun along the way!

Activities may include group problem-solving games, abseiling, rock climbing, skiing, snow caving, tramping, camping, rafting and kayaking.

Year 7: Planting the Seed

This programme introduces students to a range of skills and ideas that will be developed on future camps. The emphasis is on safety and enjoyment, and students can sample a wide range of outdoor activities. Students are challenged individually and as a team, so they can begin to understand team working and decision making.

Year 8: Growing the Person

Through the challenges and successes in this programme, students develop their decision making and risk management skills. Individual and team activities are undertaken.

Year 9: Belonging Whanaungatanga – Making connections

The purpose of this trip is to bring students together offsite at the beginning of their Secondary School experience so that they may develop positive relationships with their peers and teachers. They will experience community development, trust building and the growth of interpersonal skills in an outdoor educational setting. Students will develop whanaungatanga, build relationships, establish culture and experience challenge. This camp will encourage resilience, build empathy, provide opportunities for students to participate and contribute, interact with their peers and teachers in a different context, and of course, have lots of fun.

Year 10: Winter Challenge

This programme brings together and extends the skills and concepts learnt in previous camps. During this camp, students will plan, prepare and participate in a winter camp above the bush line. Outdoor safety, working together, and risk management are incorporated throughout. Independent outdoor skiils are built on in preparation for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award Adventuros Jounrey in Term 4.

Years 11–13: Senior Outdoor Education

Outdoor experiences for Years 11, 12 and 13 are tailored to meet the specific training and leadership requirements of different groups within the College.

The Outdoor Programme also delivers leadership training to senior students via camps at Castle Hill for Peer Support, Prefects, and Middle School Leaders camps held in January.

Silver and Gold Duke of Endinburgh's Hillary Award Adventurous Jounreys are offered to senior students via the Castle Hill programme.

In addition to programmes for St Andrew's College students, the Castle Hill Centre contracts out to other groups. Each year approximately 1,000 students will pass through our programmes.







Alistair Sidey Mountain Lodge

The Alistair Sidey Mountain Lodge in the spectacular Canterbury High Country will quickly become one of your favourite classrooms. In 2008, the Lodge was completely rebuilt into a state-of-the-art centre for our outdoor education and leadership programmes, where personal empowerment and team spirit are top priorities.

For further information, please contact:

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