

SABIS® EDUCATIONAL SUMMER CAMP Newsletter 2016

A Decade of Fun & Learning Ashwicke Hall School



Welcome to the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp Newsletter!

The 10th annual SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp, held at Ashwicke Hall School, continued in its tradition of offering camp participants a motivating, inspiring, and exciting opportunity to learn, grow, shine, and have fun in the process! This year, over 180 students from around the world travelled to Bath, England, where they enjoyed a summer packed with cultural and historical experiences, fun activities, and morning academic sessions.

The 10th annual SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp newsletter is a tribute to the incredible summer and a great way to keep those wonderful memories alive for many years to come. Read on for some highlights! A Decade of Fun & Learning

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Why Ashwicke Hall School

Why Ashwicke Hall School

Ashwicke Hall School is a unique setting for a dynamic and inspiring summer camp. The campus is set in 148 acres of verdant English countryside, just outside the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath. London and Oxford are just 90 minutes away, and the school is also within easy distance of Shakespeare Country making it ideally placed for some of Britain's top destinations.

Through the carefully tailored SABIS[®] curriculum, Ashwicke Hall School provides the knowledge, skills, and experiences students need to gain entry to and excel in the next academic level.

As well as all the educational facilities that are required for the academic sessions that take place throughout the camp, spacious classrooms and computer laboratory are equipped with cutting-edge IT tools. Teachers with extensive experience in the SABIS[®] Educational System[™] offer camp participants a comfortable and smooth transition from classrooms at their home school to classrooms at Ashwicke Hall School.









Since 2006, the SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp has combined learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyable on-campus and off-campus activities. In the morning, students attend classes and in the afternoon, after lunch, they choose from a wide range of on-campus and off-campus activities tailored carefully to suit all tastes and ages.

The academic schedule consists of four hours of lessons from Monday to Friday. Students choose two courses from a wide range of offerings including English, French, Arabic, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and SAT courses. There is also a special SAT mathematics and SAT English training program for all students in levels H-M, in

Daily

Life at the Summer Camp

addition to the newly added Public Speaking course.

After lunch, campers can choose from a wide variety of activities. While some choose to join a variety of activities, sports, and clubs, others immerse themselves in preparation for the much-anticipated talent show!

Testimonials

"I want to thank you for everything you have done for my son at the summer camp. I can see a positive change in his character and I plan on sending him every year to the summer camp at Ashwicke Hall School."

- Anoud Al Hammadi, parent

Dorm Life at the Summer Camp

Dorm

Life at the Summer Camp



During the course of the SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp, students live in on the Ashwicke Hall School campus. Boys and girls live in separate dorms in rooms that are designed to accommodate up to four students. Students are responsible for keeping their rooms clean and tidy under the supervision of a well-trained staff members. These members, called "house parents", live in apartments attached to the dorms and are responsible for the well-being of all boarding students.

Each student has a bed, desk, chair, and lockable wardrobe. Bed linen is changed once a week and there is a timetable for personal laundry. All the rooms are cleaned on a daily basis by school staff, from Monday to Friday.

Each dormitory has a common room, a shared space which is equipped with an LCD television, a DVD player, and recreational facilities such as a pool table, two computers, and a lounge area. The televisions all have access to satellite channels which are controlled centrally to ensure appropriateness. Students and House Parents spend quality time socializing and relaxing in this room.



Life in the dorms is an exceptional experience for students. As each day passes, students begin to feel a strong sense of responsibility, discipline and independence, and begin building lifelong friendships.





In 2016, the numerous activities and events offered were carefully selected with one purpose: to educate students through exciting and new experiences.



This summer, participants at the SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp were given the opportunity to join a number of clubs where they could learn new skills and develop their talents.

Gardening Club

Nothing is more beautiful than the gardens surrounding Ashwicke Hall! Students who joined this club enjoyed the beautiful natural surroundings and learned about the basics of gardening.





Testimonials

"We have seen lots of positive change in our son since his return from the summer camp! - Amr and Rasha Hanbali, parents

On-Campus Activities and Events

Science Club

This year, the Science Club was definitely a big hit among the campers! Exciting experiments ranged from strawberry DNA extraction, to fingerprinting, to building a solarpowered car.

Zumba Dance Club

Mixing fun with a healthy workout, this club was a huge hit! The Zumba club also helped students develop a healthy lifestyle and encouraged them to make fitness a part of their lives.

Hiking Club

Campers and teachers took advantage of the unique location of Ashwicke Hall and went on a few unforgettable hikes to the villages of Marshfield and Castle Comb; the latter considered one of the most beautiful villages in the U.K. Hiking sessions always ended with a visit to the grocery shop where students enjoyed ice-cream and juice.







Testimonials

"Even though I study in a boarding school in the U.K., my experience at SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp was really different! I have learned to be more independent and have met new friends. I joined most of the on-campus activities but I liked the Photography and Science clubs the most. I think the summer vacation was too short and I wish I could have stayed longer!"

- Kareen Homsi, 16 years old, student at a school outside of the SABIS® Network





Chess Club

Chess is an ancient game that improves students' critical thinking skills and teaches them new game strategies. Students in this club spent three weeks of continuous training under the supervision of an expert as they prepared for the competition that would take place during the last week of school.



Testimonials

"I never felt home sick in my life but when I first arrived to this camp, I really felt home sick and missed my mom and dad. I could not get along with anyone in this camp and I kept calling my parents asking them to collect me from this camp. My teachers and friends insisted to keep me in the camp until the last minute and encouraged me to participate in all the activities. One day, everything changed! I felt that Ashwicke Hall School was my second home and did not want to go back to my home country. I will always remember this experience because it changed me to the better. I hope I can come again in the future." - Eyas Hanbali, 12 years old, AIS On-Campus Activities and Events



On-Campus Activities and Events

Cooking Club

Once a week, cooking sessions were held in the dining hall, where campers prepared and created their own recipes inspired by their home country. On the next day, students would serve the meals they cooked to their teachers and friends at lunch.



Cycling Club

What is more beautiful than taking a bike ride around the beautiful campus of Ashwicke Hall School? Every day after lunch, from Monday to Thursday, campers had the option of taking bike rides and practicing for the bike race which was held during the last week of the camp.



Beading Club

Even though the campers' schedules were full, some students still looked forward to joining the beading club where they learned to make bracelets and jewelry in the shape of butterflies and tiny animals.



Testimonials

"This is the 4th year I attend this camp and I love it here! This experience has given me an idea of what to expect next year. In addition, learning how to manage my finances is a lifetime lesson I have learned at the camp which I will never forget. I consider him as a father and friend who is always there for me."

- Mohamed Aly, 15 years old, ISC-Sharjah





Arts Club

Ashwicke Hall School's greenery was an inspiration for campers to create their own art. A display was organized during the last week of the camp to showcase students' drawings, statues, and different art work.



Debate Club

At this club, debate teams, along with their coaches, prepared different discussions covering topics which students encounter on a daily basis, such as benefits of social media and choosing between American and British universities. The club held many sessions this year which were attended by the majority of campers. Each session lasted more than expected as the participating teams discussed and debated their opinions.





On-Campus Activities and Events

Kite-Making Club

In this club, students learned to make kites under the supervision of an expert kite-maker. Afterwards, they enjoyed flying their kites as a beautiful display on the spacious campus of Ashwicke Hall School.



Photography Club

This club was added this year to allow students interested in photography with a great opportunity to develop their interest. Amateurs and photography enthusiasts alike learned more about the techniques behind taking the perfect photograph and gained experience in the beautiful and inspiring landscape surrounding Ashwicke Hall School.





Talent

The summer camp talent show is a much anticipated event by students, teachers, and visitors alike! It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their many talents ranging from singing and dancing to playing musical instruments and poetry recital.











Sports

The summer camp offers students a large choice of sports activities including basketball, football (soccer), tennis, swimming, squash, volleyball, and badminton. Table tennis and foosball are also available.

This year, competitions were organized during the last week of camp where students competed against each other as campers cheered on. Winners were awarded certificates on the last Friday BBQ.





On-Campus Activities and Events

Tuck Shop

The Tuck Shop was fully operational from Day 1. The students were divided into groups of three, with each group taking a turn to manage the shop during break time every day.

A list of items was prepared and delivered every day to the shop to provide campers with a daily portion of refreshments, snacks, and water.

The Tuck Shop taught students how to run a small business and how to manage it in terms of finance and stock. It definitely helped students to enhance their managerial skills, but what mattered the most were the unforgettable memories they gained out of their experience at the shop.

On-Campus Activities and Events

Friday BBQ



The Friday BBQ is a much-anticipated event which is attended by all members of the camp! During Friday BBQ, students and teachers gather in the school's football pitch to participate in a wide variety of entertaining activities from sports to quiz races.

Delicious food is served and music is played throughout the night. As twilight sets in, campers search for firewood to feed the bonfire and roast marshmallows.

Public

Speaking Course

The Public Speaking course is a new addition to the summer camp program. The course helps students overcome their fear of public speaking and provides them with tools to become confident speakers and presenters, who are able to successfully engage in conversation with ease.









Rock Climbing

Climbing is a social activity as it has to be done in pairs. Most of campers were firsttimers so most of them were unable to successfully reach the top during their first attempt. Despite that, they were encouraged by staff to try keep trying until they finally reached the top.



Testimonials

"My experience here gave me a head start to Grade 7. The off-campus activities were amazing, especially hiking and the high ropes course. The extra care my house parent gave me was exceptional!"

- Meng Yirq Peng, 11 years old, ISC-Dubai

High Ropes and Tree Abseiling

Campers were delighted to attend the High Ropes course where they faced their fears and cheated gravity! This activity promoted self-confidence, determination, and a love for the great outdoors. The beautiful setting of the venue was in a forest on the outskirts of Bristol. The students learned how to rope climb while maintaining balance on narrow logs high above the ground. Despite their fears, students mustered the courage to participate in activities they had never taken part in before.

Off-Campus Activities

Racing At M4 Karting

M4 Karting is a great venue with a 400 meter arena designated for karting. It provides lap times of approximately 45 seconds and uses hugely impressive karts. Students were very excited to take rides and compete against each other in an atmosphere of fun and sportsmanship.

Pottery Painting

Students enjoyed pottery painting in nearby Bristol using their hands to create colorful ceramic and clay paintings on mugs, bowls, and plates. The best part was taking their totally unique creations back home as a wonderful souvenir of their trip.



Testimonials

"I attended the summer camp to improve my English and experience life in another country. I learned a lot about the U.K.'s history from the cultural and historical venues we visited. I feel I am more responsible now and more mature." - Lea Azakir, 15 years old, student at a school outside of the SABIS® Network



Alton

Towers and Thorpe Park

Campers enjoyed the U.K.'s most extreme thrill rides at Alton Towers and Thorpe Park. At Alton Towers, Galactica was the highlight of the trip. The ride sent campers soaring through interstellar space, providing unrivalled access to the limitless wonders of universe. Moreover, other rides such as G-Force proved to be a thrilling and exciting adventure for students who chose it.









Laser

Tag

Laser Tag was an exciting activity for campers. They enjoyed the multi-level arena and had a blast competing against each other in an atmosphere of music, fog, and special-effect lighting!





Canoeing

Paddling towards the finish line, students who participated in this trip learned how to navigate the waters and the importance of working as a team.

This activity took place at Bristol's historic harbor situated in the heart of the historical city of Bristol. Campers enjoyed the activity and through it, improved their team-building skills.

Testimonials

"According to our son's feedback, the days which he spent at the camp were amazing. He enjoyed each and every moment of it!"

- Sheeraz Babar, parent

Off-Campus Activities

Urban Adventure

Urban Adventure was yet another fun activity for camp participants. Setting out from Bristol's historic harbor, participants were supplied with game packs containing a map, compass, and clues. The activity included a series of challenges, problems, and tasks for the teams to solve in order to score points. The games promoted teamwork, practical skills, and healthy competition.

Geocaching

This amazing activity involves the use of a hand held GPS receiver in order to find hidden objects. The GPS receiver is pre-programmed with a number of different coordinates for each team of campers to locate and involves following the directions on the GPS screen.

Geocaching is a cross-curricular activity that every camper enjoyed. It combines outdoor play with team-building, problem-solving and other valuable educational outcomes.



Trekking and Navigation

Unlike Geocaching, this activity was meant to help campers learn and rediscover the essentials of nature indicators without a GPS device. Campers focused on maps and compasses for safe navigation. They learned map-reading, as part of improving their outdoor activity skills in case they ever got lost. Particular attention was paid to applying these key skills to a trek with a focus on the trekking plans of participants in each course. This activity is very useful when loss of a GPS signal or no GPS device available around.







Trips and Excursions



The first trip was to the city of Bath which is one of the most beautiful cities in England. The city is considered a World Heritage City by the UNESCO and is ideal for tourism and shopping.

On their first visit to Bath, students took a ride in the famous Bath City Sightseeing Bus. They sat back, relaxed, and explored both ancient and modern attractions around the city. After this dazzling tour, campers went to shop in the bustling road facing the famous Roman Baths and its surrounding market.

Testimonials 🗕

"I would like to thank you and the whole staff at the SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp. My son told me that he had an amazing time and loved being there."

- Mahassen Ombargi, parent

SABIS[®] Educational Summer Campers enjoyed a number of trips and excursions. Here are a few of the favorites:





Trips and Excursions

Roman



The Roman Baths in the City of Bath is perhaps one of the best preserved Roman remains in the world. Lying in the heart of the city the Roman Baths were constructed around 70 A.D. as a grand bathing and socializing complex.

During the trip to the Roman Baths, students toured the museum, enjoyed the natural hot spring that flows from the Bathhouse, and encountered costumed characters!





Windsor

Castle

No trip to the U.K. would be complete without a trip to Windsor Castle, one of three official residences of The Queen and has been home to the Sovereign for over 900 years.





Testimonials

"I acquired many values during my stay at the summer camp such as independence and self-confidence. In addition, meeting new people has changed how I view the world by learning about different culture." - Joelle Sasu, 14 years old, ISF Frankfurt







Horry Potter Studios

For all Harry Potter fans, the visit to the Harry Potter Studios this was a real treat! Here, they learned about the casting and the making of one of the world's biggest blockbuster series!



Testimonials

"The extra classes will definitely help me with my next academic year. The self-management and time management skills we gained are priceless." - Wenseok Park, 17 years old, Ruwais Private School





London

Eye

Campers visited the London eye in London which is considered the largest Ferris wheel in Europe. They were all impressed to see a 360 degree view of London from above and tried to guess where famous landmarks were located such as Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament. They took pictures of Big Ben, the Thames River, and Westminster Bridge and enjoyed the sky-bound adventure. Overall, the experience was breathtaking and the trip was unforgettable.

Trips and Excursions

Buckingham

Palace

Campers can never go to London and miss the chance to watch the Changing of the Guard ceremony. This unique display, beside Buckingham Palace, of the Horse Guard and then the Royal Guards thrilled all campers.

Buckingham Palace, located in the City of Westminster, is the residence and administrative headquarters of the ruling monarch of the United Kingdom. The palace is often at the center of U.K.'s occasions and royal hospitality.





Madame

Tussauds Museum

Campers had the chance to visit Madame Tussauds museum; the most popular wax museum in the world. Once they reached the museum, the waiting queue was long as people from all around the world gathered at the main entrance.

Upon entering, campers were fascinated by the huge number of wax statues of celebrities and famous world characters including Victoria Beckham, Cristiano Ronaldo, Justin Bieber, and many more.

Testimonials

"My daughter had a wonderful time!" - Ahmed Mardmomen, parent

Campers had loads of fun as they took photographs with their favorite movie stars, football players, singers, and superheroes! In addition, campers attended a 4D show about the history of Madam Tussauds and London City.









Science

Museum London

Any student fascinated with the world of science has to visit the Science Museum London. It is a unique and thrilling attraction located in central London which unites people from different cultures and ages. The trip was so exciting and opened students' eyes to the discoveries that scientists dedicated their lives to.

Longleat Safari Park

Longleat Safari & Adventure Park has been one of the U.K.'s top wildlife attractions for many years. Wild animals are able to move freely within large enclosures or sections of Longleat Park. A Decade of Fun & Learning



Trips and Excursions





Trips and Excursions

London

Dungeon

At London Dungeon, students discovered the stories and villains of London's past including Guy Fawkes and Jack the Ripper. They also watched a full cast of brilliant actors in wide variety of interactive shows, 360 degree sets, special effects, and went on exciting rides!

Swindon

Outlet

Shopping is always a fun activity for students at the summer camp. The Swindon Designer Outlet is a shopping area with international and luxury brands at discounted prices. Many students enjoyed the shopping trip and bought gifts to take home to their families and friends.



Testimonials

"The main reason I joined this camp was to have fun and explore England. But through this experience, I consider myself more mature now. Debating Club, Science Club, Public Speaking course, hiking, and canoeing were my favorite activities. I also learnt how to play the Drums. I enjoyed the trips and excursion as well." - Mia El Hawa, 13 years old, SIS-Adma









Sea Life

London Aquarium

The Sea Life London Aquarium is located on the ground floor of County Hall on the South Bank of the River Thames in central London, near the London Eye. In this visit, students witnessed the magical polar ice worlds, watched polar bears and orcas, and brinicles descending to the sea bed, in addition to gigantic orca whales rising from the waves, sharks, colorful clownfish, and sea turtles.



Testimonials

"Traveling alone to join the camp was easier than I thought it would be. I learned to do things myself and by meeting new students, I learned how to work in a team. The trips to London, especially to Harry Potter Studios, Roman Bath, and Longleat Safari Park were the best! Since many students are preparing to go to universities, I considered my time at the summer camp as a small glimpse on how the future would look like."

- Niaiesh Mardmren, 13 years old, ISC-Muscat







M&M's

World

For chocolate lovers, this was the best destination in London. It was a fun and interactive experience. Students bought M&M Candy Dispensers, M&M Mugs, M&M toys, and other accessories in addition to M&M chocolates in big variety of attractive colors.

Manchester City Football Club -Performance Program



Some of the summer camp participants joined the professional soccer training week in Manchester City FC residential camp at Denstone College. This camp ran for one week in July and offered football lovers over 30 hours of football coaching. Players were given Manchester City FC Nike training kits. On the last day of the training week, players were given a certificate of participation from Manchester City FC coach who supervised the training program at Etihad Stadium in Manchester City. This experience enhanced the participants' soccer skills as well as team building skills.





"The daily feedback I received from my son about the classes, activities, and events as well as the photos on the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp website gave me the pleasure and the full satisfaction that our kids have really enjoyed their time at the summer camp. This experience has really helped us achieve our goal in empowering the personality of our kids and exposing them to new cultures and other personal growth activities in different environments. My son now feels independent and responsible." - Marwan El Anas, parent







Testimonials

"Socializing is very important and this is what I learnt at the camp. I enjoyed going on trips with others and team up with them and work as a group. At the camp, you learn to survive by depending on yourself. Due to the friendly and warm environment at the camp, I was able to work better considering that this was my first time away from home. This camp will certainly prepare you for the future and especially for the SAT exams."

- Maxim Ulkin, 13 years old, ISC-DIP

Final

Farewell to Campers

By the end of the SABIS[®] Educational Summer Camp, participants had learned and gained new skills, made lifelong friendships, and improved academically. Most importantly, they all left with a treasure chest full of amazing memories that would stay with them forever!





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THE SABIS® EDUCATIONAL SUMMER CAMP WELCOMES ALL STUDENTS. YOUR CHILD DOES NOT NEED TO BE REGISTERED IN A SABIS® NETWORK SCHOOL TO JOIN.

For more information, visit ashwickehallschool.sabis.net/summer-camp or ask your local SABIS® School Administration. You can also E-mail: uksummercamp@sabis.net. Facebook: facebook.com/SabisEducationalSummerCampBathUk

Education for a changing world."