

# Why brilliant residential?

LEARNING

AWAY

Residential provide the opportunity and experience of living with others.

This transforms relationships and develops a strong sense of community and belonging between staff and students involved. Our evaluators found that this sense of community supports a wide range of positive social and learning outcomes long after the return to school.

So what is it about the residential that uniquely builds this lasting and impactful sense of community? And how does this experience translate into short, medium and long-term outcomes for students?

This diagram sets out our theory about the changes that happen to learning through brilliant residential experiences.

## Residential bring:

### The overnight stay and an intensity of experience

- Extended time away from home
- A new environment and routines
- Fewer distractions
- Opportunities to work intensively and be immersed in learning
- A collaborative community environment
- Unstructured time

### A new context for relationships

- Opportunities to break down existing barriers, hierarchies and power relationships
- Students and teachers work more collaboratively in unfamiliar surroundings on unfamiliar tasks
- The teacher is not automatically the expert
- Residential are a leveller for students and staff
- Opportunities to develop and practise key social skills

### Different and varied opportunities to experience success

- A wide range of practical and physical challenges
- Opportunities for everyone to be successful at something
- Opportunities to overcome fears
- Immediate opportunities to revisit and build on learning experiences

### New ways of learning

- A safe space to explore new ways of teaching and learning
- Focus on real-life activities and experiences
- Increased levels of student responsibility

## Which in the short and medium term lead to:

### Enhanced relationships

- Students and staff trust each other
- Students feel more able to ask staff for help
- Students feel more comfortable with each other
- Students are more able to empathise
- The sense of community is sustained

### Improved engagement and confidence in learning

- Increased motivation and engagement
- Improved behaviour and attendance
- Increased participation in lessons
- More enjoyment of learning
- Enhanced confidence, resilience and wellbeing
- Increased ability to overcome challenges and try new activities

### New and developing skills and understanding

- New learning continues to develop, including skills in: independent learning; study and research; self management; communication; team working and problem solving
- Deeper and better understanding of specific subjects/topics
- Developing vocabulary
- Improving creativity
- Meaningful opportunities to develop and practise leadership skills
- Increased ability to apply learning and skills in new contexts

## Which in the longer term lead to:

- Improved achievement, progress and attainment
- Improved knowledge, skills and understanding
- Improved relationships
- Improved engagement
- Improved behaviour and attendance
- More successful transition experiences (at all key stages)
- Raised aspirations
- Greater cohesion and a sense of belonging
- Enhanced trajectories to work, sixth form, further and higher studies