

The brilliant benefits of #WinterResidentials

Through extensive action research, Learning Away has gathered profound evidence that shows that school residential have a transformative impact on everyone involved.

"The student-teacher relationship built in a week on residential is similar to that of a relationship built over an entire year in a normal class situation."

Learning Away school staff survey response



We believe the transformation is greater the sooner a residential takes place in the school year.

Yet residential in schools are more likely to take place in the summer term, just as the teacher is saying goodbye to their class.

Here are some compelling reasons why schools should plan #WinterResidentials.

Far too many children are missing out on life-changing residential experiences



Only 1 in 5 children experience a residential every year

Students in disadvantaged areas have the least opportunity to take part

Our vision is for #BrilliantResidentials to be more than an enrichment activity for some children, but an entitlement for all.

Benefit 1: Boost resilience and wellbeing



87%

Secondary

Felt more confident to try new things



Residential **improve students' resilience, self-confidence and wellbeing.** Students are more willing to try something new and ask for help, push themselves and participate in class. Imagine teaching a class with more self-belief for the rest of the school year after going on a winter residential.



"Everyone digs a snow hole in which they sleep out under the stars. This is the crux of the experience - being out in the winter elements overnight."

Teacher's comments about a winter residential to Loch Eil in Scotland

Benefit 2: Increase engagement with learning

Residential **improve students' engagement with learning**, including positive changes in behaviour and attendance. Going on a residential in the winter months will give them a passion for learning which can live on throughout the year.

72%

Primary

My behaviour at school is better

71%

Secondary

I feel more strongly motivated to learn



Benefit 3: Embed learning back in school

77%

The way I was taught on the residential will help me do better in this subject

Going on a winter residential allows **more time for all learning to be embedded and reinforced back in school.** We know residential have a long term impact on students' progress and attainment when followed up on their return to school.



Benefit 4: Foster deeper relationships

Residential **foster deeper relationships which are sustained back in school.** The sooner a teacher gets to know their students, the sooner they can 'set them up for success'. Winter residential allow relationships between staff and students to become more trusting and respectful back in the classroom. Students gain a better understanding of their students and how to respond to them.

84%

Secondary

I get on better with others in my class

79%

Primary

I know my teacher better



"There is a more positive relationship between students and their teachers as we have all battled Storm Desmond together. None of the students will have ever leant at 45 degrees into a 60mph wind on a beach before. They loved it!"

Teacher's comments about a winter residential to Snowdonia

Benefit 5: Discover new learning opportunities

The longer nights and shorter days offer new learning opportunities outdoors during a residential.

Try out astronomy

Take a night walk

Go exploring in the dark

Enjoy exhilarating winter weather



The beginning of the school year is also a great time of year to kick start key subjects with inspiring hands on learning indoors.

Explore art galleries and museums

Experience historical re-enactments

Learn about local traditions



Benefit 6: Greater return on investment

Winter residential can also be **more affordable**, giving schools the benefit of a greater return on investment.

Why not have a sleep-over in the school hall or within the school grounds to keep costs low?

Many residential providers have reduced rates or offer discounts over the winter period.



Not just enrichment but an investment
#WinterResidentials

Learning Away works with schools to help them develop highly effective #BrilliantResidentials which are led by teachers, co-designed with students and fully integrated into the curriculum.



www.learningaway.org.uk/winterresidentials

@LearningAway #WinterResidentials

References:

Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Evaluation of Learning Away: Final Report (York Consulting, 2015)

Learning Away, The State of School Residentials (LKMco, 2017)

Learning Away was founded and initially developed by Paul Hamlyn Foundation. phf.org.uk