



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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25th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 9 Trip to Thorpe Park – Thursday 16th July 2026 (Enrichment Week)

As part of Enrichment Week, we have arranged a visit for Year 9 students to Thorpe Park on **Thursday 16th July 2026**. Please read the information below carefully, particularly the sections on [Merlin Annual Passes](#) and [Ride Access Passes](#) if applicable, as these require additional steps and earlier deadlines.

Students will depart from school at 9:00am and travel to and from the park by coach. We aim to return to school at approximately 4:45pm, subject to traffic conditions. Students should therefore make arrangements for getting home at this time.

Students are not required to wear school uniform, but should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. They should bring a packed lunch and, depending on the weather forecast, may wish to bring a raincoat, sun cream, and a sun hat. There is a gift shop at the park which students will have the opportunity to visit, so they may bring some spending money; we suggest no more than £20.

The cost of the trip is **£37.00** per student, or **£15.00 if your child has a Merlin card (see below)**. If you would like your child to take part, please visit **iPayimpact**, select **'Year 9 Thorpe Park Trip'**, and follow the instructions to complete the payment and permissions form.

Please note that **payments are non-refundable** unless the trip is cancelled by the school (for example due to insufficient contributions).

*The following two sections apply only for anyone wishing to use a **Merlin Annual Pass** or obtain a **Ride Access Pass**.*

Merlin Annual Pass holders

If your daughter has a Merlin Annual Pass and you would like to make use of this, then the cost is reduced to £15.00 for travel only. Please carefully take note for the following conditions:

1. **Each passholder would be required to pre-book their own slot for the correct date of the trip.** They should do this for only themselves.
2. A screenshot of the pre-booking confirmation must then be brought to (or emailed to) Mr Bradley in the KS3 Head of Year office for scanning **before Friday 1st May 2026**. Only then can we make the reduced offer price available in your daughter's iPayimpact account.

This is to allow us to verify pre-bookings and confirm eligibility for the reduced travel-only cost. After this date, full payment will be required.

3. To ensure there are no issues with missing phones/low batteries etc on the day, a paper or digital copy of the pass must be brought to (or emailed to) Mr Bradley in the KS3 Head of Year office for scanning **before Friday 10th June. If a student does not have their pass on the day and has failed to bring it in advance, they will not be able to travel on the coach.**
4. Please note that any Merlin Annual Pass pre-bookings are made independently by parents and are subject to Merlin's own terms and conditions. These bookings are non-refundable and are not covered by the school's trip refund policy.

Ride Access Pass (RAP)

There are two routes to obtaining a Ride Access Pass. Please follow one route only.

Student led route:

To pre-book a **Ride Access Pass**, students must first be registered for a **Nimbus Access Card**:

<https://www.accesscard.online/apply-or-renew/>

To be eligible for a RAP, the Nimbus card must show one of the following symbols:

- Level Access
- Urgent Toilet Needs
- Difficulty Standing
- Difficulty with Crowds

Once registered, download the **Merlin Ride Access Pass** app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Each device allows one RAP pre-booking which can include **up to three guests**. All users must have their own booking. Pre-booking opens **from 27th April onwards**.

Once you have made a booking, please email Mr Bradley with the **names of the nominated guests** so that I can manage arrangements on the day and ensure students are on the appropriate coach.

There is no need to link a Merlin Access Card with the Ride Access Pass app.

School led route:

Thorpe Park provides an alternate route for Schools to organise RAPs for any students attending on a trip. This works separately to the standard RAP procedure, where the school must apply in advance, listing which students would require this adjustment on site and a brief description of what their needs/requirements would be.

Therefore, if your daughter does require a Ride Access Pass and the school already has evidence that supports meeting the eligibility criteria described above then please email Mr Bradley and the school will endeavour to organise a pass on your daughter's behalf. Please note that there is **a deadline of Friday 1st May**, after which Ride Access Passes for this trip must follow the student-led route described above.

Please note: any students intending to organise their own Ride Access Pass must inform Mr Bradley well in advance of the trip so that any nominated guests can be allocated the appropriate coach for travel.

Payment and consent

Before completing payment, you will be asked to confirm that:

- You give permission for your daughter to participate in the Thorpe Park trip on **16th July 2026** and travel by coach.
- No medical or parent/carer contact details have changed since the last data collection (or that the school will be informed if they have).
- You understand that the **£37.00 contribution is non-refundable**.

There are **167 places available** on this trip. The closing date for payment is **Friday 5th June 2026**, or earlier if the trip reaches capacity. **If using a Merlin Annual Pass, the deadline is Friday 1st May 2026.**

Please note that **cash and cheques cannot be accepted.**

If you experience any issues using the e-payment system or have any questions, please contact the school finance office on 01628 625068.

If your daughter is eligible for **Free School Meals** and you would like to request a subsidy for her to participate in the trip, please email Mr Bradley as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr B. Bradley

Trip Leader / Assistant Head of Year (KS3)

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