

LIVING NORTH

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School's OUT

Summer is nearly upon us, and while children will undoubtedly be looking forward to a long-awaited break from their studies, that doesn't necessarily mean that their learning should stop. We find out how three of the North's leading independent schools are encouraging their students to make the most of the summer holidays

AYSGARTH SCHOOL

One of the leading Prep Schools in the country, where 'boys can be boys', Aysgarth School aims to stretch every one of their pupils to make the most of their abilities, whatever the activity, and encourages them to keep this attitude up over the summer break.

'Our USP is that we are a full boarding school, so our pastoral care is about the whole child, because they spend more time here than they do at home. Our view is that if a child is happy, having fun and feels safe then the rest of the lessons, the learning, everything else just happens. Our term-time programme is very much about developing that relationship with a child so that they feel that they've got somebody they can trust to go to while they're here, and feel confident that they can be who they want to be. The boys have different hobbies, different traits and different ways of behaving, so it's about allowing them to feel that who they are is worthwhile, and developing those traits while they're here so they can enjoy them at home during the summer.'

'My advice to all pupils for the summer is, firstly, to try a new activity. It doesn't matter what, just try to broaden your horizons. Read a book recommended to you by a friend, make the most of your local environment – learn about the geography, history and wildlife surrounding you – and make time with your parents and experience some activities with them too.'

'If you are lucky enough to go on holiday, make the most of every opportunity; find out as much as you can about the place before you travel and when you arrive, swim, play, walk, use the language, eat the food and remember how lucky you are to be enjoying the experience. Whatever you get up to over the summer, enjoy yourself!'

Rob Morse, Headmaster

