

MOUNT
KELLY
ENTERPRISES

Mount Kelly

8-DAY NATURE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

17 to 24 October 2026





GUY AYLING

Head Master and Principal
of the Foundation

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend our Nature Residential Programme, here in the heart of the British Countryside. Mount Kelly is located in Tavistock, a UNESCO World Heritage Town on the edge of Dartmoor National Park. With rolling countryside nearby and the Devon and Cornwall beaches within easy reach, our location is perfect for outdoor adventure and exploring the South West.

We are delighted to invite young people to share in our vibrant and engaging community, offering unique opportunities to explore and engage in everything we have to offer.

At Mount Kelly, we pride ourselves on fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every individual feels at home and part of the wider community. Every member of the Nature Programme team at Mount Kelly is here to make sure that those visiting us make the very most of their time and leave the programme having grown in confidence, resilience and knowledge.

During our Nature Programme, attendees will participate in lessons and explorations accompanied by a schedule of breathtaking and challenging activities. Whether experiencing the natural landscapes of the Moor, visiting local gorges and waterfalls, The National Aquarium, or the nighttime wildlife watches, we strive to ensure every moment is both inspiring and enjoyable.

We hope you love your time at Mount Kelly and look forward to meeting you.

Guy

Mount Kelly

AT A GLANCE

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Nature Residential

Spend eight days by the sea, riverbanks, estuaries, rock pools and the open moor. Working alongside Mount Kelly staff and professional field ecologists, students conduct genuine wildlife research across England's wildest landscapes, deploying camera traps for otters, surveying grey seals and their pups from a working harbour, and searching for wild beavers at dusk.

Gain Recognised UK Certification

As part of this Nature-based Residential Programme, students will have the opportunity to achieve recognised AQA Unit Awards, gaining formal certification for the skills, knowledge and experiences developed during their time with us.

Through field studies, environmental investigations and practical activities, students will work towards selected AQA units linked to the natural world. AQA is the UK's largest examination board, and its Unit Award Scheme recognises individual achievement and personal progress.

Students who successfully complete their units will receive an official AQA certificate, which will be processed after the programme and posted directly to them as a lasting record of their achievement.

Adventure Awaits

Founded in 1877 and named after Admiral Benedictus Marwood Kelly, Mount Kelly is a leading independent school in the South West of England with a proud history and an impressive alumni community.

Set in spectacular surroundings on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, Mount Kelly is renowned for its commitment to outstanding co-curricular provision and outdoor education, and is ground-breaking for leading on Nature Education.



ACADEMIC *Curiosity*



A GENUINE RESEARCH RESIDENTIAL

This is not a Nature walk; it is a working field course in which students are immersed in Nature. Students use the same apps, survey methods and equipment as professional ecologists, contributing real data to national wildlife databases while exploring Dartmoor, the Devon and Cornwall coastline, as well as some of the South West's most important conservation sites.

Expert-Led Fieldwork

Every day is led by a qualified teacher or an ecologist from professional organisations, including the Eden Project and the National Marine Aquarium. Students learn directly from practitioners working in conservation, marine science and rewilding.

While we visit prime habitats at the best possible times, wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. Our programmes are delivered in real-world environments where weather conditions may require us to adapt the itinerary to ensure safety and the best possible experience.

A Truly Multicultural Experience

With students joining us from across the world, including British and native English speakers, Mount Kelly offers a rich multicultural environment. Students learn from one another while immersed in a traditional British Boarding School, surrounded by the UK's iconic countryside.

Practice and Improve English in Real-World Settings

Our lessons are designed to help students practice, develop, and gain confidence in English across a wide variety of real-life situations, with an emphasis on scientific and geographic terminology.



LOGISTICS *and Info*

Outstanding Teaching

Our programme is carefully designed by experienced educators and delivered by Mount Kelly's own staff, ensuring every student benefits from the School's long-standing tradition of academic excellence.

Mount Kelly's innovative work in Nature Education has been recognised through collaborations with leading academic partners, including research links with The Royal Society, the University of Plymouth and the University of Oxford, exploring the benefits of Nature connection in education.

Onsite Boarding Accommodation

Students stay in Mount Kelly's traditional boarding houses on the School's 160-acre estate, meeting the high standards required by UK Independent School Inspectors. Each house offers comfortable accommodation and welcoming common rooms.

Set in Historic and Beautiful Grounds

Mount Kelly is a listed historic building, located in Tavistock, famously associated with Sir Francis Drake. On the edge of Dartmoor National Park, the School is perfectly situated in one of the most beautiful regions of the South West of England.

Set in Community and Friendship for Life

At Mount Kelly, students develop a strong sense of belonging. As confidence grows, so too do friendships, often lasting a lifetime.

Student Supervision, Health and Wellbeing

The health, safety and welfare of our students is our highest priority. Students are supported and supervised at all times throughout the residential, including overnight.

LIVING AT *Mount Kelly*

Life at Mount Kelly is safe, supportive and full of energy.

Students live on our fully residential campus in welcoming boarding houses designed to feel like a home from home. Accommodation includes twin rooms and small dormitories, with students grouped by age and boys and girls housed separately.

Each house offers:

- Secure entry
- Comfortable bedrooms
- Kitchens and social spaces
- Common rooms with games and TVs
- Outdoor areas, laundry facilities and Wi-Fi
- House Parents live on site
- Experienced pastoral staff

Care and Wellbeing

Your child's safety, health and happiness come first.

Our experienced team understands that travelling abroad can feel daunting. That's why students are supported at every stage, academically, socially and emotionally.

Mount Kelly is known for exceptional pastoral care, with:

- Dedicated House Parents
- Trained safeguarding staff
- Clear routines and 24/7 supervision
- Safety & Security
- Secure campus and buildings
- 24/7 CCTV and on-site security
- This supportive environment helps students build confidence, independence and resilience

Global Perspectives

Our international student community brings together young people from across the world.

Students are encouraged to:

- Share ideas and cultures
- Explore new viewpoints
- Learn collaboratively and confidently

Travel & Location

Mount Kelly is located in the historic market town of Tavistock, Devon, set within 160 acres of countryside and woodland on the edge of Dartmoor National Park.

This unique location offers the perfect balance of:

- Natural beauty and outdoor adventure
- Cultural exploration

Example Activities

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Mount Kelly Estate



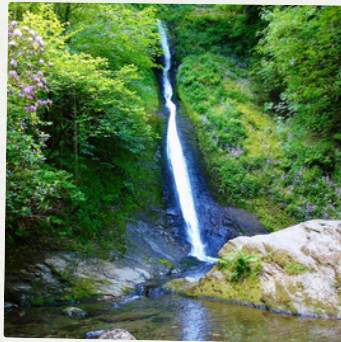
The National Aquarium



Temperate Rainforest



The Eden Project



Devon Gorges



Ancient Woodlands



Bat Detectors



Beaver Safari



Seal Census

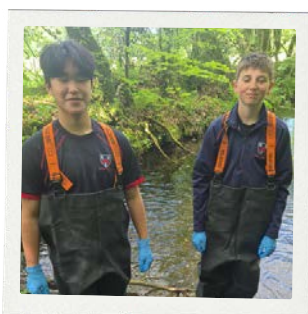
ACTIVITIES *and Kit*



WHAT IS INCLUDED?



- Full board (Residential Students Only)
- All meals (Including Non-Residential Students)
- All field trips and excursions
- All field equipment & journal
- Heathrow escorted transfers (Residential Students Only)
- Travel insurance
- End of programme Mount Kelly certification
- AQA Unit Award certificates & entry fee



What to bring:

- Day Sack
- Waterproof Jacket
- Walking Boots
- Head Torch
- Waterproof Trousers
- Lightweight Binoculars
- Warm Clothing
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Water Bottle





THOMAS FRANKS

AWARD WINNING *Catering*

Our catering is provided by the multi-award winning team, Thomas Franks. Sustainability and quality are at the heart of what they do. Thomas Franks source ingredients with care and cook with passion, anticipating forthcoming culinary trends and supporting small and local producers and suppliers. They believe in an innovative and seasonal approach to food, using fresh ingredients and cooking from scratch for all of our pupils and visitors every day.



EXAMPLE *Menus*



Great days start with great food.

Mount Kelly's catering is provided by Thomas Franks, serving fresh, nutritious meals made on site using seasonal and locally sourced ingredients wherever possible.

Students enjoy:

- Balanced, freshly prepared meals every day
- A wide choice of international dishes
- Farm-assured meat and sustainable fish
- Fresh salads, fruit and vegetarian options

All dietary requirements and allergies are carefully catered for, so every student eats well, safely and happily.



Scan for the virtual tour
of the dining hall

MOUNT KELLY					
Week 2 Lunch Menu: College					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup	Mediterranean Vegetable	Swedish	Tomato & Bean	Courgette & Lemon	Leek & Potato
Main	Pesto Chicken & Grilled Vegetables	Honey Chicken Chow Mein	Beef & Bean Fajita	Lemon & Herb Chicken on Sourdough Bread	Buttered Fish Steamed Hake in Garlic & Herb Butter
Vegan	Vegan Meatballs in Red Pepper Sauce	Satay Mushroom Fried Rice	Vegan Mince Quiche	Vegan Strip Tagine	Vegan Crispy Fillet
Pasta & Rice Bar	Spaghetti Bolognese Creamy Garlic Mushroom Pasta Cherry Garlic Bread	Warm Salad Bar Turkey, Olives, Sun-dried Tomatoes Roast Vegetable Couscous	Spaghetti Carbonara Smoky Cheese Sauce Coriander & Smoked Paprika Bread	Beef with Lemon & Cream Pasta Tomato Sauce & Pasta Cumin & Garlic Bread	Macaroni Cheese Garlic & Parsley Bread
Vegetables	Roast Potatoes in Red Oil Carrots & Green Beans	Lemon & Coriander New Potatoes Stir-Fried Vegetables & Beansprouts Brown Cauliflower	Black Pepper Wedges Belly Cakes & Garlic Green Beans	Seasoned Rice Roasted Aubergine, Courgette & Peas	Home-Cut Chips Peas, Mushy Peas, Curry Sauce, Lemon Wedges, Tartar Sauce
Dish	Sliced Beef, Pizzilli & Shrimps Ragout Roasted Vegetables & Cream Cheese Ragout	Meatball Sub Fajita Sub	Sweet Chili Sausage Wrap Coronation Chicken Wrap	Bacon, Cheddar, Mayo Roll Cheddar, Onion, Mayo Roll	Coronation Chicken Ragout Sliced Egg & Cress Open Sandwich
Dessert 1	Banoffee Pudding & Custard	Pineapple Upside-down Sponge & Custard	Chocolate Orange Sponge & Chocolate Sauce	Banoffee Blondie & White Chocolate Sauce	Spiced Orange Cake & Vanilla Custard
Dessert 2	Summer Berry Pudding	Strawberry Jelly	Lemon Cheesecake	Raspberry & White Chocolate Mousse	Edam Miso

THE *Itinerary*

DAY 1 (Saturday): Arrival & Travel

Students arrive at Heathrow or Gatwick, where they are met by our team and travel south to the Mount Kelly estate to be shown to their rooms and settle in ahead of the programme.

DAY 2 (Sunday): The Living Estate – Discovery

The programme begins with a bioblitz of the Mount Kelly estate, gathering real species data using professional research apps. Students scout the River Tavy for otter trails and mount camera traps before a guided introduction to Dartmoor, driving across the moor via Postbridge, Princetown and Yelverton. By nightfall, students use bat detectors to tune into the frequencies of Britain's rarest nocturnal hunter, the greater horseshoe bat.

DAY 3 (Monday): The Living Theatre – Eden Project, Cornwall

Students explore the world's largest indoor rainforest, walking beneath tropical canopies and climbing aerial walkways through Mediterranean biomes. Working with professional ecologists, they study how industrial waste was transformed into living soil, and explore our connections with jungles and our love of chocolate! The evening gives way to moth detection back on the Mount Kelly estate.

DAY 4 (Tuesday): Dartmoor – Peat, Navigation & Deep Gorges

Students examine soil and water samples and study the invertebrates hiding among the moorland, track skylarks across the open moor, and navigate by map and compass to one of the most ancient temperate forests in England. Descending into Lydford Gorge, the deepest gorge in the South West, they search for underwater-walking dippers. The evening features a search for the rare barbastelle bat in Bovey Valley Woods.

DAY 5 (Wednesday): Marine Science & The Big Reveal

At the National Marine Aquarium, ecologists teach students about sustainability through a guided tour, before students learn to become science communicators by creating a stop-frame animation advocating for the ocean. By the coast, the group then conducts a beach science survey contributing to national litter databases. After dinner, everyone gathers for "The Big Reveal" to discover exactly what the River Tavy camera traps captured while they were sleeping.

THE *Itinerary*

DAY 6 (Thursday): Brixham Harbour – Seal Census

Students walk the half-mile harbour wall at Brixham to access one of the South West's most reliable grey seal haul-out sites. Using binoculars and scopes, they conduct a population census, comparing seal behaviour against the tide, before heading to Berry Head to search for migratory birds. The day finishes with a traditional British fish and chip supper on the quay.

DAY 7 (Friday): Exe Estuary – Bird & Beaver Safari

From the RSPB hides at Bowling Green Marsh, students observe migratory waders such as godwits, geese and the famous avocets. The group enjoys a traditional carvery lunch before continuing to Otterton Mill, stopping en route to examine cliff erosion at Sidmouth. As dusk falls on the River Otter, home to England's first wild beaver population, students watch in total silence for the V-shaped wake of these master engineers as they emerge to fell trees and go about their business.

DAY 8 (Saturday): Departure

The residency concludes with a Certification Ceremony, celebrating each student's contribution to genuine conservation research, before departure for the airport.

Most of our days start at 0800hr (and will always include a hearty breakfast). On most days we will finish at 1930hr so we can enjoy and experience the Nature on offer during the day and into the early evening. Students will have breaks during the day for lunch and dinner. Approximate timings of each day will be given on completion of booking.

DATES *and Fees*

Arrival Saturday 17 October 2026. Departure Saturday 24 October 2026.

£1,300 per student, fully inclusive, residential | £800 Non-Residential

Ages 11 – 16 | Maximum of 32 Students



LOCATION

& Accessibility

Mount Kelly is located in Tavistock, a UNESCO World Heritage Town and borders the infamous Dartmoor National Park. Located only 50 minutes from the nearest beach, we are perfectly positioned for a week of Nature-based activities.

The South West is well known for its education and boasts over 10 top UK Universities. Plymouth University was recently awarded the top university for Marine and Ocean Engineering and over three quarters of their research is ranked 'world leading'.



GETTING HERE

With brilliant links to London and the Midlands, arriving by plane, train or coach is the best way to start your adventure with us.

Students are warmly welcomed on arrival and escorted to Mount Kelly by our team. Escorted transfers from London Heathrow Airport are included between 09:00–18:00 on designated arrival and departure days.

Transfers outside these times or from alternative locations can be arranged at an additional cost.

-  Under 1 hour
Newquay Airport
-  Under 1 hour
Exeter Airport
-  Around 2 hours
Bristol International Airport
-  Around 5 hours
London Heathrow
-  Around 4.5 hours
London Gatwick





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