

## **NEW USERS INFORMATION PACK**

### **Mission Statement**

***“To develop confidence and an awareness of self, others and the world around us through positive learning experiences in a new and challenging environment”***



## Dear Course Leader

Many thanks for making an enquiry in regards to bringing a group to Blue Peris. Our aim is to help you in any way we can, therefore, we welcome any correspondence.

Beautifully situated in the heart of Snowdonia, Blue Peris Mountain Centre offers Outdoor Education, Adventure, Recreation, Management, National Governing Body Award, and Skills Training.

With its magnificent lake and mountain setting, Blue Peris allows people to enjoy and achieve in a safe and welcoming environment. A combination of a superb activity location and highly skilled and knowledgeable tutors makes a stay at Blue Peris a truly life-enhancing experience.

The centre is managed by Fusion Lifestyle on behalf of Bedford Borough. The centre prides itself in running courses that prepare people of all ages for new challenges and these all help to promote personal confidence and catalyse team development.

Blue Peris has been offering these top-quality courses for over 30 years. The centre is a non profit making organisation that in recent years has invested in updating the centre to improve the outdoor learning opportunities for all our clients.

We pride ourselves on offering not only just a residential experience, which in it self brings many facets of learning and life skills, but also feel we offer the integration of many areas of cross curricular learning into our programmes. We achieve this by linking our activities to the wonderful and natural environment we have at our disposal. This environment gives us access to rivers, lakes, sea, mines, mountains, rock faces, beaches, gorges and other special places. It is by combining these environments within our courses which gives such special, powerful learning and long lasting memories.

We plan our courses in consultation with our clients and endeavour to provide an experience which is tailored to the aims and objectives of the client.

All our full time staff are qualified teachers and hold a vast array of the Highest National Governing Body Award (NGB) Qualifications within the outdoor industry. Our freelance staff all undergo in house training and, where applicable, hold the appropriate NGB qualifications. This ensures the safety of our clients and the quality of their learning.

Blue Peris provides purposeful, enjoyable and safe residential outdoor education for children and young people. We promote their personal and social development and environmental awareness, and enrich their learning. This helps them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

A Blue Peris experience contributes towards the Every Child Matters outcomes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

Young people are faced with many challenges in today's society and having the ability, desire and ambition to tackle these often proves daunting. Our programmes are designed to tackle these and many other issues and do so by giving students real exciting situations, which they need to overcome.

## Quality and Safety

### Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge



### AHOEC Gold Standard



There is an inspection process for these awards to be given and Blue Peris was one of the first centres within the UK to be awarded these prestigious awards in December 2009.

The **AHOEC GOLD Standard** is a quality assurance scheme that builds on both the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge and the **Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC)** Code of practice. It is recognised by the Council for LOtC as a higher level award.

The **GOLD standard** exceeds the benchmark set by the LOtC Badging scheme **and provides clients and centres with a scheme that not only addresses the issue of safety but the delivery of a client focused quality experience.**

The Centre was inspected and rated excellent to outstanding on all areas which were

Customer Care, Safety Management, Facilities, Environmental Sustainability and Quality Assurance.

“It is fantastic news that members of AHOEC are ahead of the game in badging their outdoor education centres. This is good for clients and children as quality assurance is guaranteed, and good for schools that will have to worry less about risk management bureaucracy, as it will be done for them. Promoting outdoor activity journeys for children is essential in increasing indoor and cyber based leisure time and they are an antidote to restricted school curricula. (Mick Brooks, General Secretary NAHT)

For more information visit

<http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/home> <http://www.ahoec.org/>

## OFSTED

OFSTED recognises the value of the quality badge and learning outside the classroom in general. In doing so they recognise that:

'When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development'

## **The Outdoor Education Advisors Panel.**

This organisation which is represented by a large majority of Outdoor Education Advisors in the UK has also endorsed the LOfC quality badge. It recommends that all users look for the LOfC badge when deciding on an outdoor education trip.

Bedfordshire has signed up to this initiative. For more information on the Advisors panel visit <http://oeap.info/>

## **AHOEC**

The centre manager, Mark Richards, is a member of AHOEC. This organisation is particularly well placed to make a special contribution by providing high quality, challenging outdoor experiences, designed with course organisers to raise levels of achievement for all young people.

AHOEC members are committed to sustainable practices to ensure that the outdoor educational opportunities make a positive difference to all young people's lives, now and for the generations to come.

## **AALA**

The Adventure Activity Licensing authority (AALA) is part of the Health and Safety Executive which inspects outdoor centres. The centre holds an activity Licence issued by AALA (Adventure Activities Licensing Authority)

## **Other Represented Bodies**

Blue Peris is a member of The Institute for Outdoor Learning ( **IOL** ) and Mountain leader Training ( **MLT** ) The centre also runs courses for the UK Mountain Leader Training boards.

## **Risk – Benefit Assessments**

### **Children and young people have a thirst for Adventure and challenge.**

Blue Peris has a long and successful history of providing outdoor and adventure education activities to young people.

The benefits of these activities for participants are numerous and include:

- Increased levels of trust and opportunities to examine the concept of trust (us in them, them in us, them in themselves, them in each other)
- Involvement in activities leading to greater academic and vocational learning with improved achievement and attainment across a range of curricular subjects. Students are active participant's not passive consumers and a wide range of learning styles can flourish.
- Enhanced opportunities for 'real world' 'learning in context' and the development of the social aspects of intelligence.
- Increased risk management skills through opportunities for involvement in practical risk-benefit assessments ('what do we want to do and what do we need to do to make it safe enough?'). Giving learners the tools and experience necessary to assess their own risks in a range of contexts.
- Opportunities to practically examine the components of challenge (i.e. Chance of gain or benefit / risk of loss or harm / accurate goal setting and judgement / willingness and commitment / activity outside the comfort zone (physical and/or emotional)
- Greater sense of personal responsibility
- Enhanced emotional intelligence (including a greater awareness of their own needs and the needs of others)
- Possibilities for genuine team working including enhanced communication skills
- Improved environmental appreciation, knowledge, awareness and understanding. Including opportunities to interact with a wild environment.
- Improved awareness and knowledge of the importance and practices of sustainability in the modern world
- Physical skill acquisition and the development of a fit and healthy lifestyle.

The centre's aim is to achieve an appropriate level of challenge to maximise the learning for each participant. The aim is not to make the learning environment as safe as possible but as safe as it needs to be.

## Programmes / Courses

Activity programmes are designed to suit every group's needs on a one to one basis, thus, providing a bespoke service to match your needs. We are very happy to discuss the programme and course design.

**The following are examples in view of what we can design courses for;**

- **Every Child Matters**
- **Fun**
- **Outdoor Education Aims**
- **School Aims**
- **High Quality Outdoor Education**
- **LOtC Manifesto**
- **Youth Service Courses, Asdan, Core Skills**
- **Key Skills**
- **PE National Curriculum**
- **A level PE**
- **GCSE PE**
- **Cross Curricular Themes**
- **Geography**
- **Key Stages**
- **B Tech Syllabi. i.e. Public Services**
- **NVQ levels 1 to 3 modules**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: Gold Residential and expedition at all levels**

## Visiting staff

These staff play a pivotal role in the success of the course. The professional relationships that are built up between visiting staff and course members add to the learning, motivation and enthusiasm of the pupils

We ask you to assist with the activities during the day as support for the general wellbeing of the students, requiring one adult to assist each instructor-led group of 10-12 students

In addition you are required to help supervise the students throughout meal times and supervise other duties.

Finally the visiting staff are responsible for all pupils and students from 9.00pm until 7.45am. However, there is a system in place so you can contact a senior member of centre staff if needed in the event of an emergency.

## Activities

### Day time activities

As previously highlighted, the centre is well placed to provide real adventure using the natural environment. We pride ourselves on the range we can offer and the experience of our staff.

The main activities are as follows

Gorge walking	Lake Kayaking *
Sea Level Traverse	Sea Kayak
Mining	Surf Kayak
Rock Climbing *	Lake Canoeing *
Mountain Walk *	Raft Building *
Abseiling *	Orienteering *
Coasteering	Low Ropes *
Coastal Study *	River Canoeing
River Kayaking	Field Studies

The activities with a \* against them are half day activities. All others are best suited as full day activities. Please consult Mark or Dave at the centre. **Visiting staff are expected to accompany groups and usually take part in activities with their students.**

### Day Time Activities – Extra Rates

The following activities may also be built into your programme on request. However, they do incur extra costs as set by the provider. However, if you do incorporate any of these activities into your trip, then it is wise to make an allowance within your costing to take in to account any increases between booking and arrival at the centre.

### Mountain Biking

Delivered as a full day, the centre uses a variety of woodland/forest venues to run this activity.

### Indoor Climbing Wall

The centre has two local walls which are available to us. These climbing walls can be used for a half or full day. We often suggest this option as a poor weather alternative / option day activity.

### White Water Rafting

This exciting and unusual activity takes place at the National White Water Rafting Centre, Bala Mid Wales. This is approximately 1 hours drive from the centre and we have negotiated a special rate for our users

- 2hr session.
- Pupils need to be able to swim 25mtrs and over the age of 12
- Rafts are run in groups of 7, so groups' sizes must be close to multiples of 7.
- This activity is based on water releases from a dam, by the Environmental Agency. This release cannot be guaranteed prior to your visit. Sessions can only be on weekdays for this rate and must be part of a course of activities.

## **Evening Activities**

We recommend these in most of our course programmes. They add an extra dimension to the course aims. They keep pupils/students active and gives another opportunity for course aims and objectives to be achieved.

They are often managed by a member of Blue Peris staff and visiting staff depending on the types of activities required, their duration and if they are on or off site.

Activities often range from:-

Onsite - problem solving, low ropes, small climbing wall, orienteering and nightline

Offsite - local walk, orienteering

Offsite at and extra charge and requiring transport. Climbing wall, and beach visit

All these are discussed and priced accordingly and are normally programmed in between 7.00-8.30pm

## **Other Evening activities**

Visiting staff are able to use a variety of rooms and the grounds to run other activities to keep the pupils/students active.

The centre has a selection of DVDs which can be watched in the lounge and various problem solving based initiatives.

## **Facilities in Blue Peris**

### **Lounge/Meeting Room**

This is the main room used in the centre by the students. It is equipped with full av equipment, which includes, wall mounted screen, DVD CD & I-pod player, and disco facilities.

### **Dining Room**

This can seat all students and visiting staff in one sitting.

### **Drying Rooms**

The centre has two drying rooms for visiting groups to use to dry clothing out. Each of these has a spinner enabling really wet clothes to be spun before being hung up to dry.

### **Student Sleeping Arrangements**

Students sleep in dorms of 8-10 people with a total of 6 dorms, 4 on the first floor and 2 on the second floor. Please note there are no electric sockets in the dorms as they present a fire hazard.

All visitors are given a clean bottom sheet, duvet cover and pillow case and asked to make their own beds on arrival this ensures that hygiene is attended to, but also adds another life skill to the visit and gives another aspect of responsibility.

### **Staff bedrooms**

There are 3 staff bedrooms. A single room is located on the first floor, with 2 double rooms on the second floor ( Both these double rooms have single beds ) These rooms have an alarm clock, hairdryer, hanging and storage space and digital safe.

### **Staff Room**

This is shared between centre and visiting staff. It has numerous notice boards and files which contain all relevant information for the smooth running of your course. In addition to this, it is an area where you may relax and a fridge, microwave and drinks making facilities are provided. All hot drinks and cordial are provided FOC.

### **Toilet Facilities**

The female shower block is on the first floor and the gents shower block is on the ground floor. Staff members have their own toilets and showers. Please note only 1 staff bedroom has a shower in and there are no en suite facilities.

### **IT Suite**

The centre has a small but fully equipped dedicated IT suite; with 7 computers available for students to use as part of their course programme, evening activities or newsletters and course blogs.

### **Wi Fi**

There are also some WiFi facilities for staff to use, subject to Blue Peris Internet usage policies.

### **Projectors and Laptops**

In all our classrooms there are digital projectors and lap tops that are available to use.

### **Classrooms**

The centre has 3 other classrooms which have full AV facilities. One of these has an interactive white board.

### **Round House – The Blue Peris Pavilion**

We have a slate round house on site which can be used for meeting, group discussions, story telling. In addition to this it can sleep 12, with a separate sleeping area for staff, so can be used as an extension to the residential experience by sleeping out.

## **Centre Shop**

This sells a small stock of refreshments, souvenirs and tee shirts. The shop is opened each morning, but this can be limited at your request. , In addition we can, if you wish, limit the amount students spend.

## **Games Room**

Dedicated with table football, pool and Table tennis (small cost for pool table)

## **Equipment**

The centre has an extensive equipment stores for both land and water. We issue all specialist equipment for all our activities and courses. Equipment available for issue to students for personal use are: Rucksack, Balaclava, Waterproof Top and Bottoms, Fleece jumper, wellies and mountain boots. All other equipment is issued appropriately for each activity (wetsuits, harnesses, helmets etc.)

The equipment is subject to a rigorous regime of full safety checks meeting safety recommendations.

## **Duties**

The centre runs a duty system which enables students to undertake a range of life skills relevant to daily home living. We feel that these are important aspects of any visit. However, if you feel that these duties are not relevant or suited to your aims and objectives then some can be removed.

- Laying tables for breakfast and evening meals
- Assisting in serving meals
- Maintaining a tidy dorm
- Making own packed lunch on a daily basis
- Washing and drying up with the use of a dishwasher
- Other minor duties.
- On the last evening and departure day of a course we also give a variety of cleaning duties out to all group members.

## **How many students can you bring?**

### **Numbers**

The main building can accommodate up to 48 students and 5 staff. In addition to this, White Peris (Our annexe building) can be suitable for an extra 10 student places alongside 3 staff places. Male / female splits need to be considered.

## [Transport to and from the Centre](#)

The cost of this is in addition to any course costs. Blue Peris can arrange the transport for you, if you wish. This is charged to groups at cost. The centre has arranged attractive costs with a North Wales based coach company which can often be very competitive.

## [Healthy Eating](#)

We endeavour to provide a well balanced range of foods for our clients. This we find helps in ensuring students eat well whilst staying at the centre.

Students have a small cooked breakfast each morning, with a choice of cereals and toast.

Students make their own lunch which again gives them a choice of their sandwich fillings (Cheese, Ham, Tuna, Jam, Chocolate spread) and snacks. Allowing students to make their own lunches allows students to practice other life skills as well as ensuring they have made lunches they will actually eat. For evening meal, 3 courses are provided (apart from arrival day) with a choice of main meals and sweets, with a fruit/yogurt option.

## [Centre Cameras](#)

The centre provides each group with a waterproof digital camera for the week to take pictures whilst out on their activities.

## [Course Photo DVD, s](#)

A DVD containing photos of their week is available for each student to purchase at the end of the week. These currently cost £2.00 (Sep 2014 ). However they are subject to a price increase if supply costs rise).

## [Insurance](#)

All students and accompanying staff have limited personal injury cover. Baggage, personal effects, cancellation etc. can be covered quite cheaply by purchasing School Journey or other Insurance. Most schools already have this cover but please check. Unfortunately Blue Peris cannot provide insurance.

## [White Peris](#)

This is a smaller building located on the Blue Peris grounds. Recently fully refurbished in 2010 it provides an excellent base for our smaller groups (max 13) or has an overspill to the main building.

The building has 1 single room and another room for 2 which are often used as course leaders rooms. In addition to this, there are two other dormitories (1 sleeps 4 with on suite toilet and shower facilities) another sleeps 6. White Peris also has 3 other shower rooms, fully fitted

kitchen, full central heating, 2 small drying rooms, 3 toilets and a lounge/dinning area. The building has a flat screen tv, digital projector, and wifi for visiting staff.

The building is accessible by wheelchair and has provision for one disabled resident. Please contact the centre for further details.

### Self Catering

White Peris can be hired out to provide an ideal base to explore the surrounding environment and is well equipped for self catering. Due to Food hygiene regulations Blue Peris is not normally available for self catering use.

We can provide a range of course structures if using White Peris as a base, alongside providing activity instruction on a daily basis.

### Old School Lodge

In our busy periods we use another centre called the Old School Lodge. This is located a 5 minutes drive away from Blue Peris. We hire out the centre on the clients behalf and provide all instruction as with Blue Peris. Catering can also be provided by Blue Peris. This building has a drying room, games/lounge room, kitchen, dinning room, and bedrooms. The bedrooms accommodate 4 in each room; all rooms have en suite facilities. There are a total of 34 student places. There are two staff bedrooms which accommodate a total of 4 staff. However extra staff can use a student room depending on total numbers. The site also has parking facilities for minibuses.

**The use of this building will be discussed whilst quoting for your visit, should Blue Peris not be available.**

### Enquiries

Please contact the centre

### Parents Evening

Mark Richards the centre manager is on hand to help assist with this are of course planning and would be able to attend if required and is able to.

### Booking Ahead

You are able to book up to 2 years ahead. This requires a £800.00 deposit to confirm the booking

### Deposits

A minimum of £1000 deposit is required with every booking. Bookings cannot be confirmed until the deposit is paid

