

# INFORMATION SHEET: ADVENTURE LEARNING

- There is moderately strong evidence that pupils taking part in adventure learning results, on average, in improved pupil progress compared to those that do not.
- Therefore, EEF have committed funding and are leading this programme to assess if and how adventure learning effects character development and attainment.
- Sheffield Hallam University will be independently evaluating this programme.
- 2,376 pupils from 99 secondary schools will be taking part and the intervention will take place when you are in year 9, during your autumn term at school.
- In each school, a group of 24 pupils will be randomly assigned to one of three groups: the Outward Bound ® group, the Commando Joe's group or a control group. The control group will not participate in either of the programmes but their school will receive funding to spend on different support for the 24 pupils selected. See below for further details on each

## BACKGROUND

### A. Outward Bound Adventure

In the Outward Bound group, students will participate in challenging, adventurous activities such as kayaking, mountaineering and wild camping, in an intensive 5-day residential course that aims to improve non-cognitive skills and attainment. Instruction will be delivered in wild settings by trained outdoor learning instructors, in collaboration with accompanying teachers from your school. Learning strategies such as feedback and goal-setting for transfer of learning will be used by instructors during the course to enhance and embed learning. As this will involve staying away from home for four nights permission from your guardian will need to be sought. <https://www.outwardbound.org.uk/>

### B. Commando Joe's Adventure

The Commando Joe's group will use a range of thinking skills to complete challenging activities and instructor-facilitated reflection sessions to try to improve character development and attainment. Commando Joe's trained instructors are military veterans and will facilitate this five-day in-school course in collaboration with teachers from your school. As you will be taken out of your normal lessons permission from your guardian will need to be sought. <https://commandojoes.co.uk/>

### C. Control Group

This group will not be participating in Outward Bound or Commando Joe's. Your school will receive funding that should be put towards alternative support. This group is essential for us to understand if and how adventure learning works.

For more detailed information please refer to the following link:

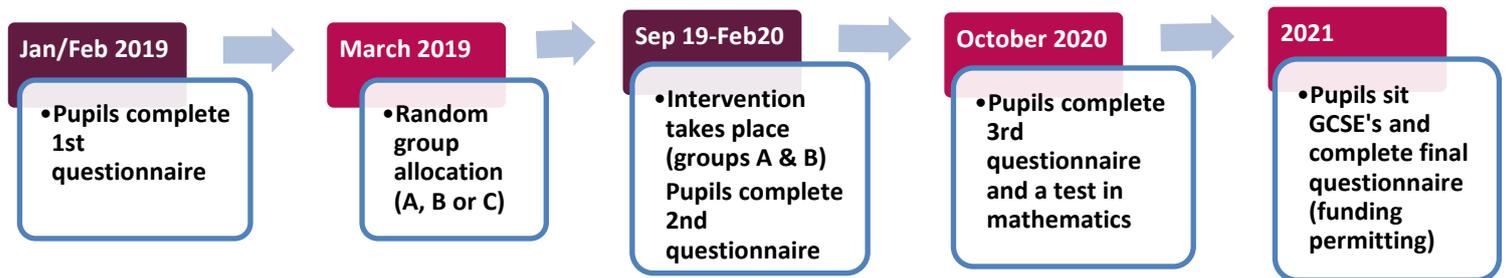
<https://www.outwardbound.org.uk/courses/schools-colleges-and-youth-groups/eef-research-trial/>



Sheffield Hallam University is independently evaluating this programme. The evaluation aims to identify what effect outdoor learning has on character development, engagement, behaviour and attainment. The evaluation is not an assessment of individual pupils or schools but is about understanding how effective the programme is overall. As part of the evaluation *all* pupils will be asked to:

- ✓ Take a survey at 3 time points (a fourth if extra funding is secured) to measure character development and behaviour.
- ✓ Take a general test in mathematics in Year 10.

It's important that you only agree to take part, if you are committed to taking part in any of the three groups and are prepared to undertake all of the related evaluation activities.



If you are randomly allocated to the Outward Bound group OR the Commando Joe's group you may also be asked to take part in:

<b>A school case study visit</b>	As part of the evaluation your school may be chosen as a case-study. The case study will be used to understand your experiences of the intervention and to understand in what way your school may have followed this up. As a pupil you may be asked to participate in a focus group and/or be observed in any activities connected to the programme that take place in your school.
<b>Observations of intervention delivery</b>	The evaluation team will observe a small number of Outward Bound group and Commando Joe's group sessions when they are being delivered. This is to inform our understanding of how the programme is delivered across different residential sites and different school contexts.

**Outputs:** The evaluation report will be published on the EEF website and the findings may also be disseminated at educational research conferences and in academic or professional journals. No individuals or school will be named in reporting.

#### Ethics/Data Protection

The data we collect from schools will be stored confidentially and securely on password protected computers, and will be held in compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) guidelines. The study has been approved by Sheffield Hallam University's ethics committee. Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study. For more information please see the fair-processing notice that can be accessed on the project website: <https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/institute-of->

If you require further information about the delivery please contact:

[enquiries@outwardbound.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@outwardbound.org.uk)

Or for the evaluation please contact: Ben Willis or Sarah Reaney-Wood on:

[adventure-learning@shu.ac.uk](mailto:adventure-learning@shu.ac.uk)

or call Sheffield Hallam University on 0114 225 4888 OR 0114 225 6066

**If you have any other queries or questions then please contact a member of staff at your school.**