

Looking forward with confidence - looking back with pride



The Duke of York's
Royal Military School
An Academy with Military Traditions



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many thanks for showing an interest in The Duke of York's Royal Military School. Our school was founded by Royal Warrant and opened as an orphanage in 1803 in Chelsea: the changing needs of Service families have always been at the heart of the institution. In order to respond to those needs the school took the exciting road to becoming an Academy in September 2010. This step marked one of the many stages of evolution in the school's more than 200 year old history.

We offer continuity of high quality education in a stable, caring and secure setting. It is also our aspiration that, as the first all boarding Academy, we will be able to maintain and strengthen what we offer both inside the classroom and in our wider life outside it. We hope to invest wisely and imaginatively to upgrade our buildings and improve our facilities. Our 150 acre site offers enormous educational benefits as do our committed and well qualified teaching and administrative staff.

While we remain nominally a military school - and take considerable pride in the number and quality of our former pupils who go on to serve in the Armed Forces – our remit is that all of our pupils from whatever background emerge from their education here as confident and well rounded individuals. We would like them to be prepared socially, morally as well as educationally as self-reliant, positive individuals who are well prepared to meet the varied challenges of life in the twenty first century.

Finally I hope that this publication through words and photographs gives you some sort of insight into what we are and the values for which we stand. It is a truism to write that the best way to experience us is to come to visit and judge for yourself. When all is said and done, people and expectations are at the very centre of any good school: I would urge you to take the appropriate steps to meet us and experience our community.

I look forward to meeting you.

Charles Johnson, Principal

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The Duke of York's Royal Military School - An Academy with Military Traditions is a new academy school for eleven to eighteen year olds. The Academy, like the Duke of York's Royal Military School, will continue to cherish its distinctive military ethos. It will be sponsored by the Defence Secretary. The Academy has a Trust Board consisting of representatives of the sponsor who will work with the Governing Body to ensure the

school maintains the highest of standards. The Chairman, Members and Governors are drawn from top management positions in the Armed Forces, education, civil service, industry and professions. Day to day management is the responsibility of the Principal who is supported by the Senior Leadership Team.



ST. JAMES'S PALACE
LONDON SW1A 1BQ

The transition to Academy status of the Duke of York's School offers tremendous opportunities both for the current pupils and for the many generations of children yet to enter its doors. The Academy achieves excellent academic results and provides outstanding pastoral care to all its pupils. This, I know, is something that is particularly valued by the many military parents who send their children to the Academy and will, I am sure, prove to be equally important to all our new parents. I am delighted that the Academy will retain its strong military links and that it will build on the Academy's ethos which has been so carefully nurtured for more than two centuries.

I have greatly valued my association with the Academy over 36 years and I now much look forward to my continued involvement as President of the Academy which, I am confident, will continue to go from strength to strength.

To the pupils, the staff and the parents of the Academy I wish every success for the next academic year and for the exciting times that lie ahead.

HRH the Duke of Kent, KG
President
The Duke of York's Military School

A School with a Rich History and an Exciting Future

In 1801, His Royal Highness Frederick Duke of York laid the foundation stone in Chelsea of what was to become The Duke of York's Royal Military School, and so started over 200 years of high quality education. The school has undergone many changes and as an Academy is once again on the cusp of further exciting developments.

The real strength of the Academy will be in its educational standards and pastoral care:

- It will build on its already excellent academic record – and will specialise in science, sport, physical and outdoor education with music as an underlying theme.
- It will develop each and every child – and offer them life skills and leadership opportunities: developing citizens and preparing them for adult life.
- It will offer outstanding pastoral care – and be a home from home to the children – especially those of military families whose lives are so often disrupted by the demands of their parents' service in the Armed Forces. The full boarding provision – which stands it apart from most independent schools - will play a big part in this, making it a favourable option for those Service parents entitled to claim Continuity of Education Allowance.





Curriculum

The Academy's specialisms are science and sport, physical and outdoor education with an underlying theme of music. A broad and balanced curriculum is offered which leads to a high degree of success in public examinations, university placements and the world of work. Academic work for eleven to sixteen year olds follows the National Curriculum but at the same time we are able to offer much more than legal minimum requirements. Our GCSE provision is comprehensive and our success rate is consistently twice that of the national average at GCSE (A*- C including Maths and English). The introduction of BTEC Public Services has been very popular and we are trialling BTEC Military Music. In the Sixth Form, a wide range of courses are available; currently 16 at AS Level and 17 at A2 Level. The curriculum is constantly under review and we intend to include BTEC and Vocational courses in the future.

Science

As a specialism, science permeates the Academy's wider curriculum and is fundamental to success in all areas of learning. Our aim is to provide the very best scientific education for pupils of all abilities and to be a centre of excellence in science.

Acquiring scientific skills and understanding through the exploration of practical real life situations, including work-based learning, is a key aspect of the school's science curriculum. Enthusiastic scientists are challenged to excel and achieve the highest grades in general, in double and triple award GCSE Science and in all three science areas at A level. We focus on developing creative approaches to learning science so that all pupils understand that science is relevant and applicable to their lives and leave school with the confidence and ability to use science in their adult lives.

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The thing I think I like most about this school is the way that everyone comes together.

Everyone who comes here belongs here. It's like a jigsaw puzzle and when everyone's here, the jigsaw puzzle is completed. Dukies have a spirit to them. They all react in the same way, they all stick together and they all like food.

Bailey Y8

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Life at The Duke of York's Royal Military School

Unlike other state boarding schools, and the vast majority of independent schools, every pupil here is a full boarder. Consequently, this means that the school is always active and busy with a very full programme of sports activities and social events. These take place particularly at weekends with dances, film clubs, regular outings to the theatre and the cinema, or ten-pin bowling being offered. We want our children to have fun.

Accommodation

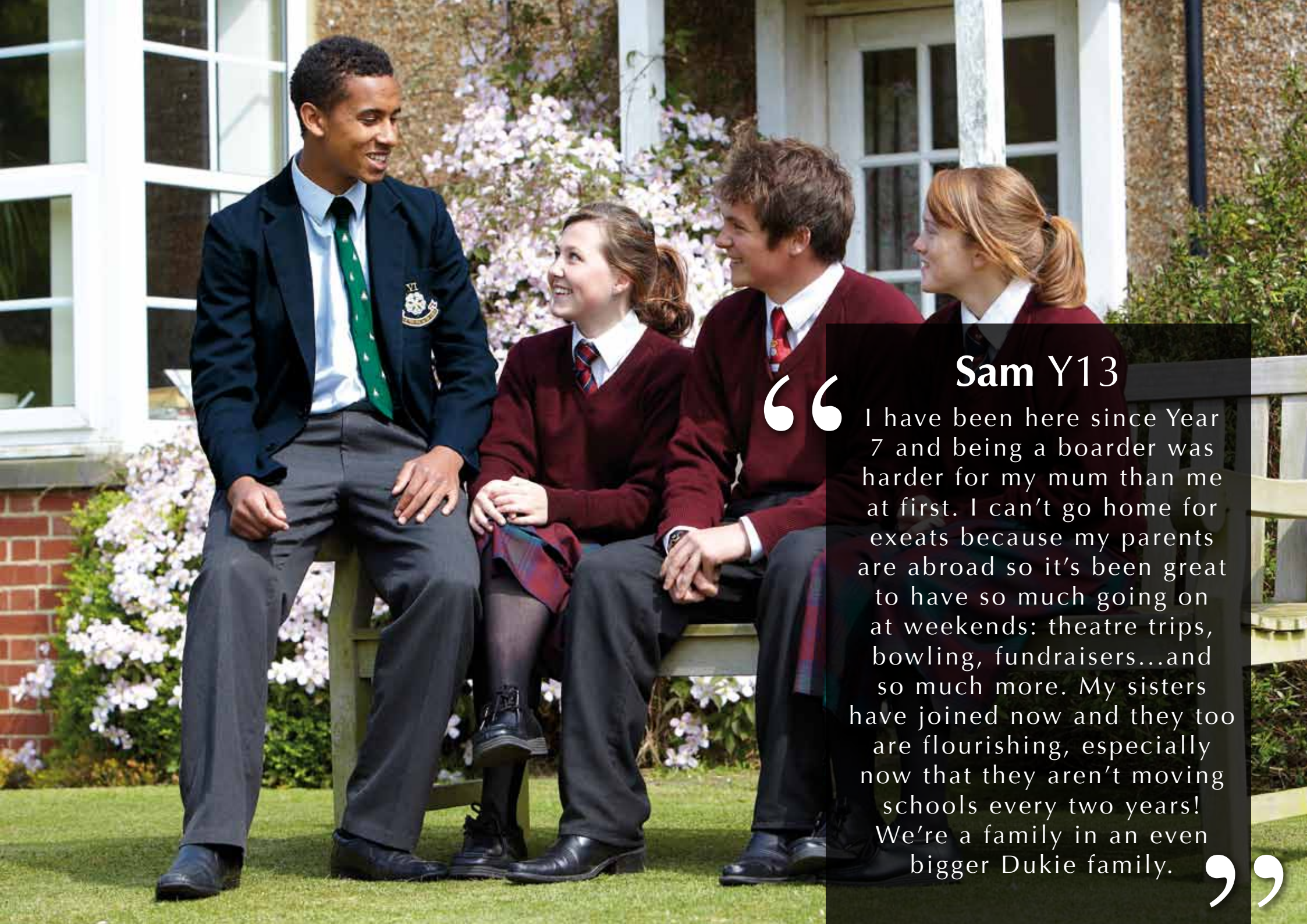
Two junior houses accommodate the first two year groups, Years 7 and 8. Older pupils reside in senior houses and the addition of brand new Year 13 boarding facilities provides a stepping stone between life at the Academy and the 'real world'.

Each house has a resident Housemaster/mistress who is responsible for the daily welfare of pupils. Houses are also generously staffed with Matrons and other Support Staff.

Pupils live in purpose built accommodation with personal study facilities, bed and storage space. Senior pupils have either a cubicle or a study bedroom to themselves. All houses have common rooms, kitchen areas and leisure facilities.

The Academy is aware of the demands and impact of service life on Service personnel and their families and of the disruption this often causes. Telephone and e-mail communication gives pupils instant access to their parents wherever they may be. The Academy can also introduce parents to an escort service to transport their children to and from London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

Visit our website: www.doyrms.com



Sam Y13

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I have been here since Year 7 and being a boarder was harder for my mum than me at first. I can't go home for exeats because my parents are abroad so it's been great to have so much going on at weekends: theatre trips, bowling, fundraisers...and so much more. My sisters have joined now and they too are flourishing, especially now that they aren't moving schools every two years! We're a family in an even bigger Dukie family.

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Games and Sport

Sport is our second specialism and has been chosen to provide a range of benefits including promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging leadership and teamwork and developing self-confidence and talent. It also prepares pupils for the many opportunities to work in the sport and leisure industries.

Pupils are encouraged to work towards coaching awards, physical education GCSE and A level. We intend introducing the BTEC First Diploma in Sport, BTEC National Certificate in Sport (Performance and Excellence), BTEC Introductory Diploma in Sport and the Community Sports Leader Award. Sport will make a significant contribution to our aim of providing all pupils with the opportunity to excel and succeed.

The Academy has excellent sporting facilities and an enviable sporting reputation at local, county and national levels. In addition to extensive junior and senior playing fields we have a fully equipped gymnasium, a 6 hole golf course, an indoor heated swimming pool, athletics track, tennis and badminton courts, squash courts, an all weather hockey pitch, indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, an indoor cricket facility, a multi-gym and a multi-purpose hard play area. The major sports are rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and netball, with full opportunities for athletics, swimming and rounders.

In addition, the opportunity to participate in basketball, football, kayaking, climbing, cycling, karate, sailing, waterskiing, trampolining, shooting, fencing and horse riding is open to all.

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Laurence Y8

“ My favourite thing is sport, especially rugby. I also like the way that you are always with your mates and it’s like a sleepover every night. ”



Music

Music is an underlying theme for the school and pervades much of our everyday life. Junior years receive lessons in music and the subject is taught at GCSE and Advanced Level and Music Technology is also offered at AS Level.

The music department has its own music centre containing a concert room and a suite of individual practice rooms. It is particularly well resourced and pupils are offered individual tuition in most orchestral instruments as well as guitar, piano and organ.

There are regular public performances. The Military Band, one of the largest in the country, has regularly been asked to play at Twickenham for the Army/Navy match and more recently at Test Matches at Lord's and The Oval cricket grounds. The school's Big Band also takes the stage with Jools Holland each year.

Drama

We are fortunate in having a spectacular assembly hall with modern stage and production facilities. There are regular drama productions of a high standard including senior and junior plays, revues and musicals. Drama is taught at GCSE and Advanced Level.

In addition, we set great store by providing many opportunities for pupils to attend professional plays, concerts and other cultural performances, both inside and outside the school.



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Maggie Y7

“ The Duke of York’s also offers many opportunities to the pupils here and many go on in adult life to become popular theatre actresses or in very successful jobs. I will definitely be staying on until 6th Form with all the improvements being made to an already spectacular school. ”



Christian Ethos

The Academy is open to those of any faith or none. The chapel services are non-denominational. The school also encourages pupils to belong to the chapel choir and choral society.

Military Heritage

Our military heritage encourages a great sense of pride and self-discipline and enhances teamwork and leadership skills. We have a very active Tri-Service Combined Cadet Force, which amongst other things enables pupils to learn how to fly, to sail, to shoot and to take part in adventurous training camps and a wide variety of external courses.

The spectacular ceremonial side of the school involves parades throughout the year, culminating in Grand Day. This is a unique and spectacular event involving the Trooping of the School Colours.

In line with its tradition over many years the Academy continues to provide unwavering support to the children of parents who have died while serving their country.



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Sasha Y7

“ I find it better coming to a boarding school, because if we move house a lot, I can stay in the same school with the same group of friends. I can't wait for the other experiences at this school. ”



Adventurous Activities and Overseas Trips

Through the Combined Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, camps, outward-bound courses and school expeditions, pupils have many opportunities to experience water sports and other outdoor pursuits, such as mountaineering, hill walking, potholing, rock climbing, mountain biking and skiing.

There are also many sporting and cultural tours abroad. These include regular hockey tours to Germany and South Africa; annual ski trips and in the past a cricket tour to Australia; a technology trip to Italy; art trips to Paris and Amsterdam and a netball trip to Grenada. We have an established gap pupil exchange programme with boarding schools in Australia and New Zealand. There are regular visits to France and Germany, including an annual trip to the French battlefields and regular exchanges with schools in France, Germany and Spain.

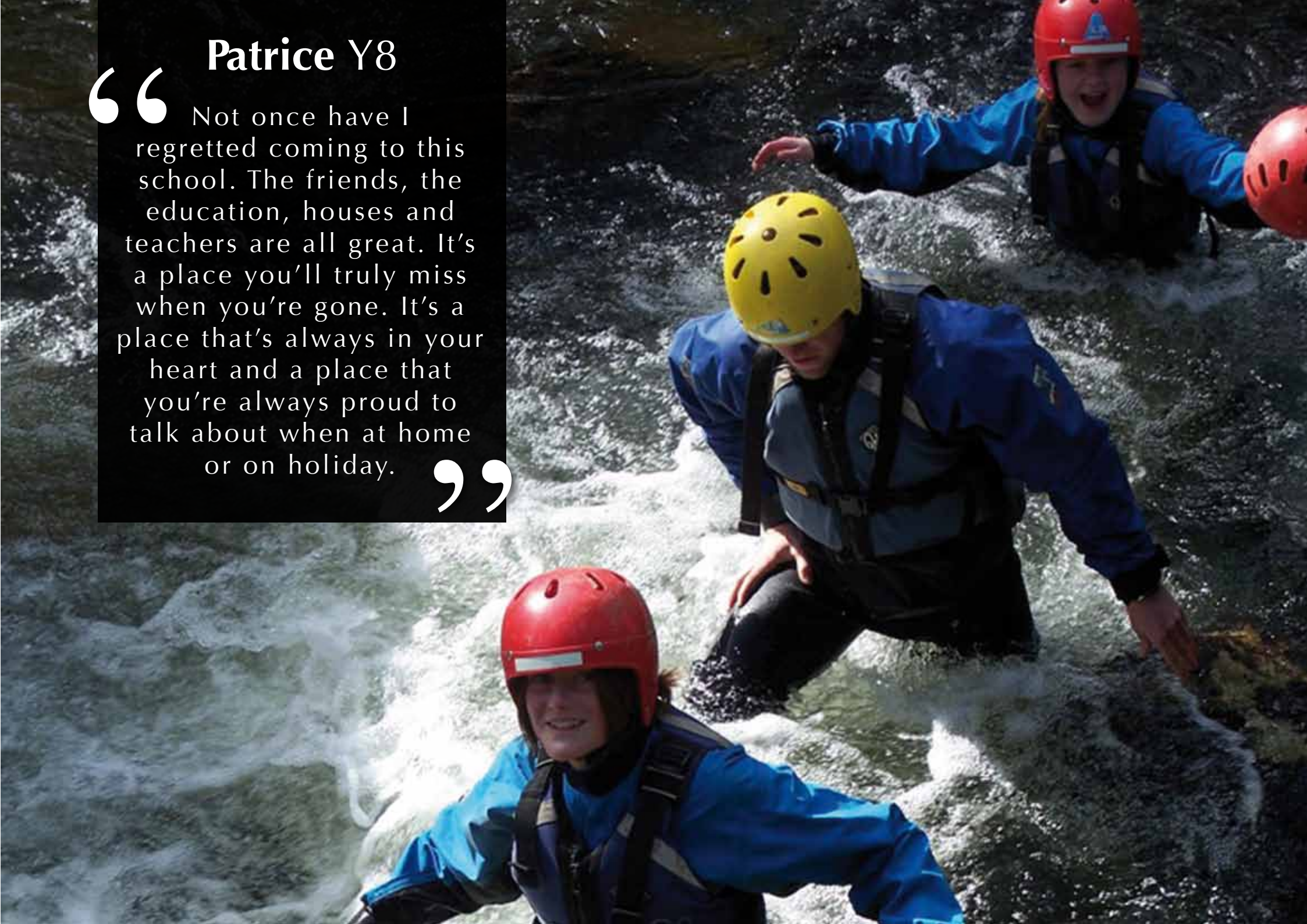
Good education happens everywhere and we aim to stretch our pupils' educational horizons both by travel and by adventurous activities.



Visit our website: www.doyrms.com

Patrice Y8

“ Not once have I regretted coming to this school. The friends, the education, houses and teachers are all great. It's a place you'll truly miss when you're gone. It's a place that's always in your heart and a place that you're always proud to talk about when at home or on holiday. ”





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