

# Team & Leadership Development – a case study

Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough



▶ As an Academy with a specialism in Outdoor Learning we take real pride in our ability to deliver a high standard of outdoor learning to every student. The Outward Bound® experience is a vital part of that process, and the residential courses at their centres are something that teachers, parents and students see as an integral part of the educational process.◀

**David Exeter**, Senior Leader, Director of Outdoor Learning

## Fact box

<b>School</b>	Macmillan Academy, specialisms in Outdoor Learning, Science & Applied Learning	<b>Location</b>	Middlesbrough
<b>School size</b>	1,450 Students	<b>Student year groups</b>	Y7, Y8 and Y12
<b>Course objectives</b>	Understand team roles Develop effective team players Experience and understand leadership Understand the importance of being a role model Increase skills in communication, planning and problem solving Increase concern for, and awareness of, the natural environment Develop action plan Enjoy and experience real adventures		

## Academy background

Macmillan Academy is a high performing Academy in Middlesbrough, with specialisms in Outdoor Learning, Science and Applied Learning. The specialism in outdoor learning is evident right through the Academy, which not only provides opportunities to participate in many different experiential learning experiences but uses these to enhance the wider curriculum.

The inclusion of residential experiences is at the heart of the academy's ethos and students have multiple chances to attend Outward Bound courses as they progress through the Academy. The Academy has been bringing students to The Outward Bound Trust for 15 years, and the experience is a key component of the curriculum.



**THE  
OUTWARD  
BOUND TRUST**

Adventures for life

## Reasons for selecting this Outward Bound course

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As an Academy with a specialism in Outdoor Learning they need to be highly selective about which organisations they work with. They choose The Trust for the following very clear cut reasons:

Inspiring locations (lakes & mountains)  
Real adventure in the wild  
Journeys & expeditions  
Professional, enthusiastic instructors  
Cost effective through Outward Bound's bursary support  
Reputation for safety and extremely high standards  
Flexible, responsive and client-focused

## Reasons for selecting each specific course

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A quarter of the students at Macmillan Academy attend an Outward Bound course each year, and those courses are selected specifically to match the needs of each year group. All of the Year 7s do the 5-day Adventure & Challenge course at The Trust's Howtown centre, the Year 8s do the weekend Adventure & Challenge course and all their Year 12 students have the opportunity to attend the Team & Leadership Development course.

The fact that The Outward Bound Trust can adapt to suit the specific needs of each group allows the Academy to deliver targeted and effective experiences to every one of their participating students. Each course delivers the objectives, level of challenge, and wider educational requirements that are relevant to each year group.

## Key outcomes identified by the Academy

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**Motivation, aptitude and appetite for learning.** The experiences at Outward Bound provide motivation to learn as well as developing the skills needed to be an effective learner, both in the outdoor environment and back in the traditional classroom.

**Broadening horizons.** Stepping out of the Academy environment and into the mountains, to participate in a well designed and managed outdoor learning experience, has a real, long lasting impact on the students' perception of themselves and the world around them.

**Enjoyment and achievement.** Although the focus is on learning there is no doubt that an important attribute of a residential experience at Outward Bound is the enormous sense of enjoyment and achievement felt by participants.

**Critical Skills Competency curriculum.** Their curriculum focuses on six main areas: Communication, Collaboration, Problem Solving, Creative Thinking, Decision Making and Project Management. The Outward Bound courses form an integral part of the curriculum and assist with the development of life-long learning skills.