

November 2007

The Classics Dig - Vindolanda '08

Dear Parents,

I would like to invite your daughter to the first Classics Dig, at **Vindolanda** fort and vicus, next to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Vindolanda is a World Heritage Site, world famous for its archaeological finds, and in particular the delicate tablets which give unprecedented perspective and details on life on the edge of the Roman World, on the edge of the Roman province of Britannia. Taking part in an archaeological dig at Vindolanda is something of a privilege: its popularity as a dig site, and the limited number of places available for archaeologists make this opportunity rare. Nonetheless Francis Holland has secured **six places** for our students to dig during the last week of August.

The dig itself will take place over five days, from **Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th August**, with a working day from 9am to 4pm (with regular tea-breaks for the workers, naturally). On site, your archaeologist daughters will be guided and trained by experienced archaeologists, learning about the context of the site, its various inhabited layers, methodologies of archaeology, and about the Roman occupation of Britain in the first to fifth centuries AD. Additionally, near to the site and free of charge to those digging is the Chesterholm Museum, quite probably the best museum for Roman finds on Hadrian's Wall.



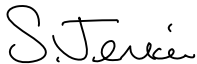
Vindolanda insists that your daughters have a supervisory adult on the dig, who is responsible for them while they are on site during the working day. We fully endorse this, and in addition want to reassure you that we shall have a member of staff, myself Mr Jenkin, nearby for the duration of the dig, and on call in emergency outside of the working day, from the evening of Saturday 23rd to the morning of Friday 29th August.

We insist, for security's sake, that your daughter make arrangements to stay at, as well as arrange her own transport to and from the **Once Brewed Youth Hostel**. This is the most convenient accommodation, in terms of distance and expense, an excellent base, with the Northumberland Park Information Centre alongside, internet access, and public transport. From here Vindolanda is no more than twenty minutes' walk, allowing easy access to and from the archaeological site. The hostel (breakfast included) will, if requested, provide a packed lunch and an evening meal, though there are self-catering facilities.

To give you an idea of expense, Vindolanda ask for a £50 application fee, and that your daughter become a 'friend of Vindolanda', a supporter of their charitable trust, at a cost of £15. This makes a total of **£65** initial expense, 50% of which is returnable if the booking is cancelled within eight or more weeks from the date of the dig (cancellations within less than eight weeks incur no refund). Added to this, of course, is the expense of the accommodation, meals, and transport to and from the youth hostel.

If your daughter would like to join the Classics dig at Vindolanda, please complete the form below to confirm her place by **Wednesday 14th November**. When all places on the dig have been confirmed, I shall be in touch with further details. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely



Steve Jenkin
Head of Classics
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Useful links

vindolanda.com *The home page, with more details about the site and excavation*

bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/vindolanda_01.shtml
A BBC article on many aspects of Vindolanda

yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/northumberland-north-pennines/hostels/once-brewed/index.aspx
The Once Brewed Youth Hostel

<http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/> *Oxford University's catalogue of the site's most famous finds*

Please return to **Mr Jenkin**, by **Wednesday 14th November**.

The Classics Dig: Vindolanda '08 **24th -28th August 2008**



I confirm that my daughter _____ in Form _____

will be attending the week's archaeological dig at Vindolanda, Hadrian's Wall.

I understand the conditions of the visit, regarding transport to and from the site, the accommodation, and meals, and the staff supervision during the visit.

Signed _____

Date ____/11/07