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Issued on behalf of:
Cosmopolitan Housing Association

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SLOPING OFF: Sixteen year old Paige Ackers, from Halewood, has her first taste of life on two skis before setting off to Switzerland with friends from Marybone Youth and Community Centre, Liverpool.

City teenagers take off for Alpine adventure

Eleven teenage girls from Kirkdale, Everton and central Liverpool have hit the ski slopes of Switzerland this week for the adventure of a lifetime.

The 15-16 year olds, all regulars at the Marybone Youth and Community Centre, are part of a group of 125 young people from across the North West who travelled out last Friday (19th March) to the Swiss Alps as part of their silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

They are spending eight days in the remote mountain village of Torgon, where they will learn to ski, take part in quizzes and competitions and go skiing at night with torches.

For some, like 16 year old Paige Ackers (pictured above on skis), it will be their first taste of life on two skis: "I've not even been on a dry ski slope before so I'm a bit nervous but I'm looking forward to being away with my mates" she said. "We're sleeping in chalets which is going to be fun. There's only one shop in the village as well but I'm not bothered – we've all brought loads of sweets and stuff!"

The trip has been made possible with funding from the Marybone Community Forum, Cosmopolitan Housing Association and the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Christine Banks, Youth and Community Development Manager at Marybone Youth and Community Centre on Addison Way, L3, said: "Without the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and the support of our funding organisations some of these girls would never get to experience an inspirational trip like this.

"They come from some of Liverpool's distinctly less well-off areas but they're great kids and are really looking forward to this adventure. I can't wait to hear how they get on and I'm hoping at least some of them will be making that trip to Buckingham Palace to get their gold awards."

ENDS

For more information, please contact James Rae on 0151 625 3900 (office) or 07919 156432 (mobile).

Notes to Editors

Cosmopolitan H.A. is a housing association that provides over 2,000 social housing properties across the North West of England. It is a progressive and dynamic organisation with a clear vision for the future which sees it as 'an increasingly well respected and growing housing association with a reputation for delivering quality and excellence to a diverse range of service users'.