

September 2024

Dear Participants and parents

Re: Year 9 Outdoor Experience Camp – 30 September – 4 October 2024

We would like Year 9 students to spend a night and day in the outdoors, taking part in a range of activities, without the distractions of a digital device. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is run in the college at all levels and this day will give a good introduction to the type of things our students would do on DofE weekends. This is also a pastoral trip where students can get to know their tutors and pastoral house team.

Plan

Throughout the week a different house group will take part each night and following day:

DRAFT	Monday 30 September	Tuesday 1 October	Wednesday 2 October	Thursday 3 October	Friday 4 October
Walking (Day Time)		Neptune/Saturn		Venus/Jupiter (J91)	Mars/Jupiter (J92)
Camping (Evening)	Neptune/Saturn		Venus/Jupiter (J91)	Mars/Jupiter (J92)	

Programme for the start day

Normal school day in school uniform. Bring with you your overnight gear (see kit list below) and a packed lunch for the next day (see later for guidance on food).

8.45am - Arrive at school for normal registration. Your tutor will instruct you when and where to take your bag, which will be room N23 (top of Northcote building).

Can we please request that parents do not 'drop off' their child's kit and camping gear at reception.

Rest of the day is a normal school day.

3.15pm - Pick up your camping gear from the designated room. Change into non-school uniform. Leave uniform and anything you don't need in N23.

3.45pm – Meet outside student services for shuttle service to the campsite.

4.15pm – Everyone should be at the campsite. Tents will be allocated (these are all 2 or 3 person tents). Set up sleeping gear etc. ready for night-time. All tents need to be full so please don't bring large sleeping airbeds etc. If you want to bring your own tent that is fine but please let me know in advance.

4.30pm – Group activities and games.

6.30pm – Food! Food will be provided for the evening.

8pm – Talk about your walking route and further opportunity for outdoor activities.

9.15pm – Start getting ready for bed. Everyone should be in the tents by 9.45pm.

9.45pm – Sleep time! Staff will be on the campsite overnight in case of problems. If there are any behaviour problems student's parents will be contacted to come and pick them up.

Next Morning

7.30am - Get up. Toilets, showers etc. are available at the campsite. Breakfast will be provided – cereals, toast etc. Pack things you don't need during the day.

9am - Pack up and load camping gear into buses. You will need a bag to carry your packed lunch, snacks, waterproofs and jumper with you – your school bag or similar.

9.30-10am - Set off for a long walk (approx. 14K), in groups of about 10. The walk is planned to be no longer than 5 hours so that you will be back at college by 3pm.

Kit Needed

Tents and breakfast food will be provided. Please let us know if you need to borrow other kit and we will try to find it. Use the notes sections on the ParentPay form to let us know:

- Warm sleeping bag (bring a blanket or duvet as well if you are worried about being cold)
- Roll mat/yoga mat or something similar.
- Warm clothing – T shirt x 2, warm jumpers x 2, track suit bottoms/pyjamas, trousers
- Waterproof Jacket (and trousers if you have them)
- Washing kit and small towel.
- Sensible footwear for walking – waterproof boots are best, trainers will be ok, but I cannot guarantee that paths will not be muddy.
- Good socks – not trainer socks.
- Plate, bowl, cutlery, mug (no sharp knives please!)
- Torch - important as phones are not allowed
- **Any personal medication.**

Food

You need to bring:

- Packed lunch for the second day (choose something that will not go off) – **please note** that students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.
- Snacks
- Bottle of water – 1litre

We will provide, evening meal (simple pasta, tomato and cheese dish) cooked on tangia stoves and breakfast. Hot drinks, cereals and toast will also be provided. If you have specific dietary needs, you are welcome to bring your own breakfast or evening meal, but we will not be able to cook breakfast.

Money

The cost of the trip will be £15 – This will cover evening food, breakfast, transport and hire of the campsite. If your child receives free school meals, then the trip will be free.

The activities will be supervised by college staff and volunteers who have gone through the necessary safeguarding checks and training. We will be working on a 1:12 ratio of staff to students.

Phones

On the camp we don't want the young people to be glued to their phones over the duration of their stay – one of the objectives of the DofE expedition is that they appreciate the countryside without the distractions of modern life so the camp will act as a 'digital detox' for our students. Phones will be handed in afterschool on the day of their camp and then collected again once back in school the next day. If students have any issues during the trip they can come and find a member of staff and if necessary, we will contact parents.

Permission

To book a space on this activity, please log onto your ParentPay account, you will see an option for 'Year 9 Camp'. Please provide medical details, dietary requirements, emergency contact details here, together with your consent. If your child is a Pupil Premium child, then this still needs to be done but you don't have to pay the £15. Please log on to ParentPay by the **DEADLINE OF 18 SEPTEMBER – This is very important as we need time to organise final numbers and staffing.**

Your child will not be able to come on the camp if this deadline is missed.

Any questions? My email address is at the bottom of this letter. Please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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