

03 September 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

Year 7 New Forest Expedition 2021/22 - Wednesday 29th to Thursday 30th September 2021

We are delighted to announce that we will be offering spaces for all Year 7 boys on our annual multi-activity residential expedition which this year will take place in the New Forest. RGS has now been running a Year 7 residential trip for over 20 years and it is an excellent introduction to the fantastic expedition opportunities at RGS.

The aim of the two days is to give our pupils the chance to work with each other in an informal environment, further develop communication and leadership skills, increase self-esteem and motivation and improve their self-determination. It will also provide a fantastic experience for pupils to stretch themselves, develop and have fun while making friends outside their immediate peer group. The activities will include team building activities, a low rope 'off the ground' activity, buggy building, wide games and navigation exercises.

The provider, Wilderness Expertise, is Adventure Activities Licensing Authority licensed which means they are able to provide all the above activities. They use highly qualified experienced and approved Leaders, who will be responsible for safety as well as skills development. These Leaders have each been chosen for their leadership, coaching, personal skills, experience, training and qualifications and have all been screened by the Disclosure and Barring Service. In addition, COVID safe procedures will be in place throughout and students will be operating in small groups over the course of the weekend. All external facilities and staff will follow guidance as laid out by government legislation as well as undertaking testing in advance of teams arriving.

Cost: The cost of this trip is **£190** and includes food, fully qualified instructors, all group equipment, tents, medical kit, 24hr safety backup and transport. *We would not wish for boys to be excluded from the trip for financial reasons. If you feel that the cost involved is prohibitive, please do contact me in strictest confidence as there may be funding available to assist you.*

Timings: Depart: 0630 on Wednesday 29th September 2021 **Return:** 1845 on Thursday 30th September 2021

If you wish your son to take part in the trip, please **log onto ParentPay from 0900 on Monday 6th September**, look up the "Year 7 Residential Trip 2021/22" and pay the **full balance of £190 by Friday 10th September**. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office (01494 551423) to pay by an alternative method.

Finally, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have by email (address below). An online consent form will be sent through by email from EVOLVE, our online trip management system, in the week following the closure of the event on ParentPay. Please complete this form as soon as you can upon receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Bjorn Rose
Head of Year 7
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