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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

4 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 7 Summer Camp, Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 May 2023 Thriftwood International Scout Campsite and Activity Centre – Brentwood

I write to inform you of a very exciting opportunity we are offering all Year 7 students next summer. As a school we are aware of missed opportunities for our Year 7 students because of the national lockdown which meant many missed out on end of year residentials and activities. Considering this we would like to take the entire Year 7 group for our annual exciting, adventurous three-day camp in Brentwood, taking advantage of the excellent on-site facilities provided by the International Scout Campsite and Activity Centre located there.

We will be departing school on Wednesday 24 May by 9:30am and returning on Friday 26 May in time for usual buses and transport home.

Students will be accommodated in four-person tents pitched close to toilet and shower blocks. Over the three days, students will take part in a range of activities including kayaking, archery, water walkerz, abseiling, climbing, sky hi walk, crate stacking, zip wire, axe throwing and the leap of faith. Food will be provided by an external catering company from Wednesday evening until Friday lunchtime and will follow a 'student friendly' camping theme with catering for individual dietary requirements.

The all-inclusive cost of the visit will be £130.00 which includes the opportunity for participation in at least 11 organised activities led by qualified instructors at the centre, all transport, hire of camping equipment and pitch fees, food, and insurance. It will not be necessary for students to have any additional spending money.

Students will not be required to provide any specialist equipment or clothing for the camp, except for a sleeping bag – we recommend old items that you may be discarding soon, as items may not be reusable on return!

All COVID protocols as set out by the government at the time will be adhered to and any extra steps required to ensure the safety of both students and staff will be taken.

We hope all our Year 7 students will want to be part of this exciting adventure and **we kindly request that you complete the consent for your child's attendance, this can be found as you make the deposit of £20.00 via ParentPay, required by Friday 21 October 2022**. We feel this represents excellent value for money for the busy programme planned, however, we do recognise that the current economic climate is a cause for concern for some families. Please contact the Finance Office at skemp@stourvalley.org if you wish your child to participate but may find difficulty meeting all the payments.

Once we have received consents and deposits, we will be able to share details of payment options and future payment deadlines (which could be spread over seven months between now and the visit). There will be a **Parents' Information Evening on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 6pm** where further details and information relating to the visit will be provided.

We are very excited about this event. Over the last ten years the camp has been a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Please feel free to view the photographs on the school website for a flavour of the adventure or visit www.thriftwood.org.uk/ for more information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me direct at: jcraig@stourvalley.org should you have any enquiries relating to the visit.

Please note that we are expecting the usual high SVCS standards of behaviour leading up to and on this trip. Any student who fails to meet these expectations risks removal from the trip and will be dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Yours faithfully

Mr J. Craig – Visit leader
Head of Humanities/Educational Visits Coordinator