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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

Dear Parents and Carers

23 October 2026

Re: Year 7 Summer Camp, Wednesday 9 June – Friday 11 June 2027 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. 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 leaving school on Wednesday 9 June by 9:30am and returning on Friday 11 June.

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, crate stacking, zip wire, axe throwing and the leap of faith. Food will be provided from Wednesday evening until Friday lunchtime and will be provided by Sharron's Event Catering with individual dietary requirements being catered for.

The all-inclusive cost of the visit will be £190.00 which includes the opportunity for participation in 10 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. 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 finance@stourvalley.org direct, in confidence, if you wish for your child to participate but may find difficulty meeting all the payments. Students will not be required to provide any specialist equipment or clothing for the camp, except for a roll mat and sleeping bag – we recommend old items that you may be discarding soon, *as items may not be reusable on return*.

We hope all Year 7 students will want to be part of this exciting adventure and kindly request that you pay the **non-refundable** deposit of £25.00 via ParentPay by 6 November 2026. Following this, 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 an initial Parents' Information Evening on Thursday 12 November 2026 at 6pm where further details and information relating to the visit will be provided.

We are very excited about this event. Over the last fifteen 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 contact me direct at: jcraig@stourvalley.org should you have any further questions relating to the visit.

Yours faithfully

Mr J. Craig – Visit leader
Raising Standards Lead Year 7 & 8 / Head of Geography / Educational Visits Coordinator