

27th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 7 CAMP 2020

We are busy organising our annual Summer Camp for Y7 students. This will run from the morning of Friday 3rd July to the afternoon of Saturday 11th July 2020, with each group spending 2 nights at the camp. This will be the twenty sixth year that we have run a camp and they have proved to be enormously successful and memorable for both students and teachers. It provides an opportunity for students and teachers/form tutors to work together as a team in a different and challenging environment. We feel there are enormous benefits for students sharing in a residential experience and supporting each other, and we will devote a good deal of tutor time to preparation so that each student is aware of exactly what is involved.

The camp will be based at the Forestry Commission Site at BRACELANDS near COLEFORD in the Forest of Dean close to the Gloucestershire/Gwent border. The site, which enjoys extensive views and excellent facilities, gives easy access to many parts of the Wye Valley. Each student's time at camp will be occupied in a full range of educational and recreational activities including forest walks, orienteering exercises, visits to Goodrich Castle, Symonds Yat, the Jubilee Maze and a full day of outdoor pursuits with fully qualified instructors.

We hope that all Y7 students will be able to take part and that parents will make every effort to enable their children to attend, as we truly believe the camp to be an extremely valuable and unique experience. For the remainder of the school week Y7 students will be taking part in Enrichment week activities on site. Further details about these will be announced early next term.

The cost, which is fully inclusive of food, transport, excursions, activities and campsite fees, will be **£110.00**, which will need to be met fully by voluntary contributions. However, the contribution is waived for those students eligible for Pupil Premium (i.e. those students currently on free school meals or who have received FSM at one point in the last 6 years – please contact the Finance Office if you require confirmation of eligibility).

Further details of our camp in the Forest of Dean.

- Address:** Forest Holidays
Forest of Dean Caravan and Camping Sites
Bracelands Drive
Christchurch
COLEFORD Gloucestershire GL16 7NN

1:50,00 O.S. Map >Gloucester & Forest of Dean= (No. 162) or
1:25,000Map >Wye Valley & Forest of Dean=. Grid reference 558135.

- Arrival and Departure:**

CAMP 1	RCO, ABA	Depart Friday	3 rd July	10.00am
		Return Sunday	5 th July	3.15pm
CAMP 2	PWA, JHI, SCX	Depart Sunday	5 th July	10.00am
		Return Tuesday	7 th July	3.15pm
CAMP 3	JRO, KGO, JFE	Depart Tuesday	7 th July	10.00am
		Return Thursday	9 th July	3.15pm
CAMP 4	JLO, LBA	Depart Thursday	9 th July	10.00am
		Return Saturday	11 th July	3.15pm

3. **Payment:**

A minimum deposit of **£40.00** is required by **Friday 6th March** along with the signed permission and medical form. Please see below for a suggested payment plan for the remaining balance. However, you may wish to pay in instalments to suit you but please note that the £110.00 must be paid in full by **Monday 1st June**.

Deposit - £40.00 – payment due by Friday 6th March
2nd Instalment - £35.00 – payment due by Friday 24th April
3rd Instalment - £35.00 – payment due by Monday 1st June

Our preferred method of payment, using a credit/debit card over the Internet, is via SCOPAY Online Payments. We would urge you to contact the Finance Office on 01749 836204 if you have not yet created your SCOPAY account. Please note that the amount of £110.00 shown on SCOPAY needs to be altered to the amount you wish to pay and this will then be deducted from your outstanding balance.

Alternatively, please return payment (cheques made payable to The Blue School with your child's name, tutor group and 'Y7 Camp' on the reverse) to the Finance Office at break only, 11.10-11.30am, by the due dates.

4. **Daily Routine:**

Timings may vary slightly for different groups but in general breakfast will be at 8.00am, packed lunch at approximately 1.00pm and dinner at 6.30pm. In the morning students may not leave their tents before 7.00am except in an emergency when they should report to their Form Tutor. The daily programme will run from 9.00am until 5.00pm. All students will have chosen to take part in various activities; archery, canoeing or the ropes course. All these activities are led by very experienced and fully-qualified instructors. There will also be organised evening activities which will normally end by 9.30pm.

5. **Money:**

There will be an opportunity to buy sweets and small souvenirs after some of the activities but there is no necessity for children to have a large amount of pocket money to spend. We suggest a limit of £10.00.

6. **Personal Equipment:**

Each child should bring:-

Sleeping bag and/or blankets	
Pillow and carrymat (optional)	
Lunch box and drinks bottle	
Toilet requisites	Towels x 2
Complete change of clothing	Sweaters
Wellington boots if possible	Lightweight waterproof
Strong shoes for walking (canvas trainers are not suitable if it is wet)	Swimming costume for canoeists
Lightweight shoes for canoeing	Torch
Knife, fork, spoon, unbreakable plate bowl and mug,	Small rucksack for the daytime
Tea-towel	

Please ensure that all equipment and clothing is marked clearly with your child's name.

PLEASE NOTE: Students must not bring mobile phones. We will provide parents with an emergency contact number. No radios, ipods or portable speakers as we cannot accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to personal music devices or hand held computer games.

7. **Health Notes:**

We will make arrangements with the local Health Centre for treatment if needed. Please complete the attached consent form (EV5) and return with your payment and permission slip below to the Finance Office by Friday 6th March.

8. **Camping Equipment:**

Tents will be used for sleeping, not as social areas. No one is allowed into any tent other than their own.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable camp, involving almost all our Y7 students and tutors. If you have any worries or doubts about anything concerned with the camp, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Miss B Cox
Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral

Ms H Stacey
Head of Year 7

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Y7 CAMP – JULY 2020

To: The Finance Office (open 11.10 – 11.30am daily) by Friday 6th March 2020

Name:..... Tutor Group.....

- I have paid the amount of £.....via SCOPAY Online Payments
- I enclose cash/cheque for £.....
- My child is eligible for Pupil Premium
- I attach the completed and signed EV5 consent form

Please tick as appropriate

Signature of Parent/Carer **Date**