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Principal
Alan Henderson

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23rd June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: YEAR 7 INDUCTION AT THOULSTONE PARK

I'm writing to tell you about our annual Year 7 Induction trip, which we would love for your son/daughter to attend. We run this trip every year for our new Year 7s, the aim being for everyone - students and tutors - to get to know each other. This year we will be going to Thoulstone Park, near Trowbridge to complete a day of fun activities, led by staff from the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team (WOLT).

The aim of the day is for students to make new friends; to develop team building skills and to have fun! The students will be picked up from school in the morning and taken to the activity centre. Whilst there, they will take part in a wide range of activities including: raft building; climbing; archery and orienteering.

I will be running the days alongside the Head of Year 7, Tutors and Teaching Assistants. There will be at least one adult per ten students. Students will be asked to attend a day with the rest of their tutor group. The dates for the events are as follows:

Monday 27th September - Tutor Groups M & E

Tuesday 28th September – Tutor Groups L & K

Wednesday 29th September – Tutor Groups S & H

Thursday 30th September – Tutor Groups A, O & C

Kit List

The weather at this time of year is very changeable and it is important that students are prepared for all weather. Thoulstone Park can be muddy and students should not wear or bring their best clothes on this trip. Below is a suggested list:

- Waterproof Jacket
- Trainers/walking boots/wellies for walking around site
- Set of spare clothes and shoes for canoeing – these will probably get wet!
- Other clothes for wearing around site – not best
- Sun hat
- Warm layers

- Water bottle – labelled please
- Towel
- Sun Cream
- Medication – should be labelled and handed over to me
- Food: packed lunch for Day 1

If you do not wish for your child to attend the trip they will be expected to come in to school on the day of their event. We will then arrange for them to follow an alternative timetable for the day.

Your child's safety is paramount. As with any trip of this nature there is always a risk of injury. All activities are run by qualified instructors, a member of Melksham Oak Staff will always be present. WOLT are a professional organisation who we have fully risk assessed and their staff have gone through the necessary Safeguarding checks.

This year we will also be putting in extra safety procedures to ensure we comply with any COVID restrictions at the time of the trip. These will be confirmed closer to the time when we know what – if any – restrictions are in place.

The cost of the day will be £44 which will cover: all activities, transport and administration costs. Any student who is entitled to Free School Meals will be able to attend at the reduced price of £19, they will also have their lunch provided.

Clearly this trip is dependent on the continued loosening of COVID restrictions. If the trip has to be cancelled due to a change in restrictions, we will either look to postpone the trip or refund all payments.

All payments for the trip should be paid to the Parent Pay Portal. At some point during term 6 you will receive a letter from us with activation details for Parent Pay; once you receive this you will be able to logon and make a payment. We require full payment to be made by **Friday 17th September 2021**.

We also require you to complete an Annual Parental Consent Form; this can also be completed on Parent Pay.

We would love for all of our future Year 7 students to attend this event; if there are any issues regarding the cost or items on the kit list, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can discuss the available options.

If you have any questions about the trip please call our main reception or email me on steerd@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Debbie Steer

HEAD OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION