



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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20 March 2018

To Parents of all boys in Year 7

Dear Parents/Guardians

Every year a camp is run for the benefit of Year 7 pupils. Attendance is entirely voluntary, but it is hoped that parents will encourage their sons to come on camp because it provides an opportunity for them to mix with their peers in an outdoor environment. Almost every boy joining Bishop's in Year 7 has taken part in this expedition and the overwhelming majority of boys who have attended camp over the years have enjoyed it and benefited greatly from the experience. Stories from Great Yews usually become part of the boys' folklore, and there is real continuity over the generations as Year 7s eventually become older and end up helping out younger boys in their turn.

The location is "Great Yews", a woodland campsite approximately 5 miles south of Salisbury which we are able to use with the kind permission of the Longford Estate. There is a site charge of £2.00 per head and in view of this, plus the need to hire a minibus and maintain equipment, we ask that each boy pay £7.50 towards the cost of the camp. We are very lucky to be able to use the campsite, and we are indebted to Lord Radnor and the management team of the Longford Estate for enabling this fantastic expedition to take place once again this year.

This year's camps will be held between Sunday 1 and Friday 6 July 2018, with each tutor group spending one night at the camp. Boys will camp in their form groups as follows – 7J Sunday 1 July, 7M Monday 2 July, 7O Tuesday 3 July, 7P Wednesday 4 July and 7W Thursday 5 July. Your son will need to bring a sleeping bag, some basic cooking and eating utensils, and food supplies. Boys need to supply their own tents. They will be asked to organise themselves into groups of 2-3 boys, one of whom will be able to provide a tent. A full kit list will be issued in due course.

Outline Programme and Points for Information

1. Boys leave school as soon as possible after 4.00 pm and return to school between 3.00 and 4.00 pm on the following day. Each form, therefore, spends 24 hours on camp. In the event of extreme weather conditions (eg sustained heavy rain or a forecast of a storm), the group scheduled to depart for Great Yews would remain at school, under the supervision of staff, until parents have been contacted and arrangements made for them to go home. Any notifications, emergency or otherwise for the trip will be posted on the @BWSTrips twitter feed.
2. Boys walk to and from Great Yews via Odstock village. Boys do not carry their food and equipment when walking and the tutor groups are accompanied by several adults and a small team of House Prefects. Every effort is made to avoid the road between Salisbury District Hospital and Odstock village, cross-country routes being selected wherever possible.

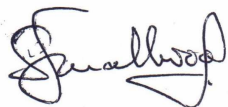
3. At Great Yews boys learn the essentials of lightweight camping. Other activities will probably include a wide game and problem-solving exercises.
4. The camp's safety record is excellent. However, parents should be aware that the activities do carry a small element of risk. For example, boys cook on open fires and will be involved in some problem solving and physical activities. They also spend a short period (in groups) in woodland after nightfall, away from direct adult supervision – this is part of the wide game. Staff monitor all activities and clear safety instructions are always provided. Staff have a mobile phone for use in emergencies.
5. Boys who are attending camp will receive some preparatory instruction in such matters as safety and emergency procedures; fire lighting and camp fire cooking.
6. The camp leaders (members of the School staff) and their assistants (members of the School's Sixth Form) are experienced campers. The camp is physically demanding, but no boy will be compelled to do anything that he considers to be beyond his capabilities. Our main concern is that boys should undergo an enjoyable, challenging and confidence-building experience from which they make a safe return.
7. The boys will be covered under the school's standard insurance cover for school trips and activities, a copy of which is available on the website at www.bws-school.org.uk.

You should have already returned the generic consent form for visits/activities to school.

If you do not wish your son to take part in this year's Great Yews Camping Trip, please let Mrs Taylor (Head of Lower School) know in writing by the end of the Spring Term (Thursday 29 March 2018).

Further details (such as the exact date when your son's form will attend; food and clothing requirements, etc) will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns that have not been answered to your satisfaction by this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact the School.

Yours sincerely



S D Smallwood
Head Master