



5 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Year 7 – Embers Camping: June 2022**

We are planning an exciting opportunity for Year 7 to camp overnight at Embers Camping in Henley-on-Thames.

As we cannot take the entire year group at once, this trip will be run over 2 or 3 consecutive nights in June, subject to demand. The dates we have provisionally booked are **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**, **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** and, if needed, **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**.

Students will come to school at the normal time on the day of their camping trip. They will not need to wear school uniform and would bring their overnight bag and sleeping bag with them. They will then travel to Henley by coach. If the weather is fine, we will have a picnic lunch in Mill Meadows. Students will need to bring a packed lunch for this. After lunch, we will travel on the River Thames to the Embers campsite by boat.

Once at the campsite, the afternoon will be filled with teacher-led games and activities. We are also exploring the option of a paddleboarding session on the river – see the consent form to express interest. Students will each have a freshly baked wood-fired pizza for supper, followed by a campfire with hot chocolate and marshmallows. The following morning, we will have breakfast on the campsite, pack up our things and return to school by coach in time for lesson 2. Students will then return home at the end of the school day as normal.

We are also exploring the possibility of offering a 1-hour paddleboarding session on the River Thames during the afternoon. This would be an optional activity and would incur an additional cost of around £15. Please indicate whether this would be of interest on the consent form so that we can assess viability.

The cost of the overnight trip is expected to be between **£70** and **£85** per student. This includes coach transfers, a boat trip, exclusive hire of the campsite, accommodation in bell tents, dinner and breakfast, insurance, and administration. The final cost will be confirmed once we know how many students will be attending, and therefore how many nights we need to offer.

Should the numbers fall below the required figures then there will either be an increase in the cost or if there is insufficient interest, the trip will not take place. Pupils in receipt of free school meals are eligible for funding towards this trip. If your child is in receipt of pupil premium, the school may be able to support with the funding of the trip should you require financial assistance. *Please contact me if you wish to request assistance.*

If your child would like to take part in this trip, we will need a non-refundable deposit payment of **£40**, and confirmation of your consent, by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** at the latest, although the earlier you can do this the easier it is for us to plan. **The remaining balance will be due the following week, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, once we have confirmed the final figure.**

**Consent should be provided on the online Google form here: [Y7 Camp Consent Form](#)**

**Please note that we have extremely tight timescales for confirming exclusive use of the entire camp site at Embers Henley, therefore we must adhere very closely to our payment deadlines.**

Payments for school trips should be made online through SCOPay, either via the SCOPay app, or by visiting [www.scopay.com/piggottschool](http://www.scopay.com/piggottschool).

Whilst away, all students are expected to behave to a very high standard, as laid out in the School Behaviour contract. If it becomes apparent prior to the trip departing, that an individual student's behaviour is unacceptable at school, thus causing us concern, you will be contacted. We reserve the right to withdraw a student from the trip if we believe their behaviour would have a detrimental effect on the rest of the party, or that their own safety and welfare may be at risk. We would endeavour to find a replacement student and then all monies may be refunded, subject to an administration charge. If, however, we were unable to find a replacement, the initial payment, and any incurred cancellation charges, would not be refunded.

Should your child withdraw prior to the trip, or you are unable to continue payments, you would lose the initial payment, and any payments already made would be used to cover cancellation and administration charges, the balance being refunded. If, however, we were able to fill your child's place, a refund may be offered less any costs incurred.

You may wish to look at the Embers website to get a flavour of the location and type of experience on offer: [www.emberscamping.co.uk/campsites/henley-oxfordshire](http://www.emberscamping.co.uk/campsites/henley-oxfordshire)

This is an exciting opportunity for your child, and it will undoubtedly be an extremely valuable experience. An information meeting for all parents and students will be held prior to the departure of the trip to share the final details, packing lists and behavioural expectations. Please note that children will need to bring their own sleeping bag but roll mats will be provided.

Should you have any further questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Romany Greatrex** - [trips@piggottschool.org](mailto:trips@piggottschool.org)

**Trips, Partnerships and Community Administrator**

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