



2 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 7 – Embers Camping: June 2023

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

The maximum number of students is 75 per night, so in order to accommodate all students, we will be running the trip 3 or 4 times. We are provisionally holding the following dates with the campsite: **Tues 6th, Weds 7th, Mon 12th, Tues, 13th, and Weds 14th June 2023**. Once we have participant numbers, we will confirm the number of trips and which dates they will run on. However, please bear in mind that we may not be able to confirm which specific night your child is allocated to until much closer to the trip, as this will allow us better accommodate friendship groups, staffing needs and special requests. We appreciate your flexibility with this.

Key details:

Date: 1 night out of **Tues 6th, Weds 7th, Mon 12th, Tues, 13th, and Weds 14th June 2023 – TBC**

Location: **Embers Campsite, Henley on Thames, RG9 3AP**

Cost: **£80-100 TBC**

Funding: **Available on request – see below**

Deadlines: **Consent and £40 deposit by 21st Nov, balance by 10th Feb 2023**

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 need to 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 (there will be an additional cost for this optional extra).

Students will each have a stone-baked pizza for dinner, 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. Students will not need to wear uniform on their return day either.

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 £25. 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 **£80** and **£100** 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 or pupil premium may

be eligible for support with the funding of the trip should you require financial assistance. *Please contact Mrs Beavis on beavisj@piggottschool.org 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 21st November** at the latest, although the earlier you can do this the easier it is for us to plan. **The remaining balance will be due by 10th February, once we have confirmed the final figure.** Please note that due to capacity limits imposed by the campsite, we cannot guarantee availability for additional pupils once we have confirmed our booking.

Consent must be provided on the online Google form here: [Y7 Embers Consent Form](#)

Payments for school trips should be made online through SCOPay, either via the SCOPay app, or by visiting 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

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 or Mr Malyon (Trip Leader and Head of Year 7).

Yours sincerely



Mrs Romany Greatrex - trips@piggottschool.org

Trips, Partnerships and Community Administrator

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