

8 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Activities Week – Bushcraft Residential Camping Trip

As we approach this year's exciting Activities Week, I'm writing to provide key information about the upcoming Bushcraft residential trip. This includes a daily schedule, packing requirements, and important expectations. With more than half of the year group attending, supported by ten members of College staff, it's important that all students come well-prepared and organised.

Departure – Monday 7 July

Students should arrive at College between 8:00 and 8:20 am, dressed in suitable clothing for travel. They should bring a day bag, as detailed in the attached packing list. We will meet in the canteen for registration, and the coach will depart at 8:45 am.

Upon arrival at **Penshurst Place** (approximately 10:00 am), students will receive a snack, a site orientation, and a safety briefing from Bushcraft staff before starting their first activities.

Daily Routine

Each day will include three guided activities led by Bushcraft staff. Students will be placed into prearranged groups, and College staff will accompany each group throughout the day.

Meals will be provided onsite as well as snacks:

- Breakfast: 7:30 am
- Lunch: 12:30 pm
- **Dinner:** 6:30 pm

Students will be expected to wake between **6:30 and 7:00 am**, wash, and dress appropriately for the day. They will be made aware of staff tent locations and provided with an emergency contact number. Should any issue arise, students are encouraged to speak to a staff member promptly.

We expect students to show responsibility, follow all instructions from both College and Bushcraft staff, maintain polite behaviour, and keep their tents and belongings tidy.

Return – Wednesday 9 July

We will leave the site around **3:00 pm** following lunch and final activities. Our estimated return time to College is **4:30 pm**. As this is outside normal school hours, please make suitable arrangements for your child to travel home.

Principal: Stuart Edwards

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Packing and Equipment

Please refer to the **attached kit list**, which includes both the day bag and main luggage requirements. **Electronic items such as laptops or gaming consoles must not be brought**.

Mobile Phones

While we advise against bringing mobile phones, students may do so at their own risk—**staff will not be responsible for any lost or damaged devices**. Regarding social media, students must not share any photos or videos without the consent of all individuals involved. We ask that students think carefully before posting anything online.

Tents

Accommodation will be shared, with **10–12 students per tent**. Tent groups are pre-arranged and **cannot be changed onsite**. Tents will primarily be used for sleeping, as the schedule is packed with activities.

Staff Attending

- Vivienne Silverthorne Head of Year 7 (Trip Leader)
- Mrs Claire Dickens Assistant Principal
- Mr Ashley Lamb Head of Year 11
- Mrs Bridget Carver Deputy Director SEND
- Mr Max Spearman Learning Mentor
- Mr Colin Harris Director of Humanities
- Miss Abi Buckenham Year 7 Tutor
- Mrs Jenny Bell Year 7 Tutor
- Mrs Julie Wilkie Year 7 Tutor
- Mr Jamie Boyt Year 7 Tutor

Parental Contact

If your child becomes unwell or injured, we will contact you promptly using the details provided on the consent forms. Rest assured, both College and Bushcraft staff will ensure your child is cared for appropriately.

While we hope not to encounter behavioural issues, College staff will address any concerns as needed. If a situation arises, I will contact you either to discuss the matter or seek your support in resolving it.

Finally, I'd like to wish all students a fantastic trip. I'm confident it will be a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Yours sincerely

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Mrs Vivienne Silverthorne Head of Year 7