



21st April, 2009

To all Year 9 Parents

YEAR 9 CHALLENGE CAMP 2009

The plans for the Year 9 Challenge Camp are coming along. We shall be leaving on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th May and returning at 2pm on Friday 15th May. We shall be at a hut near Semerwater, between Leyburn and Hawes.

We shall be away for three nights. Those who want to come will spend two days doing challenging activities (swimming in the lake and under a waterfall, abseiling and a wet gorge descent, with night caving as an option for those who would like to cave, camp fires, night walks, but it does depend on the weather). On Thursday evening the remaining girls, who will continue to go to lessons at school, may join us at the hut, along with the Year 9 tutors, for supper and to spend the night (probably not the tutors – so if a girl really does not want to camp at all she can return with the tutors after supper). I would encourage all girls to come at least for Thursday night – it is quite a good bonding experience for the whole year group.

On Friday morning we shall strike camp, leave everything on the minibuses, and set off for a walk across the Dales, finishing at a pick-up point where, with luck, the buses will meet us and bring the girls back to Queen Mary's.

I have managed to negotiate the instructors' fees, so the cost will be only £100 per head. Girls who want to come just for the last night need pay nothing. To spread the costs I added a charge of £50 to last term's bills with the remainder to be included at the end of the Summer term. If your daughter does not want to attend or wants to attend just the last night, the £50 will be refunded.

We have enough tents for all the girls, sharing two or three to a tent. There is the option of sleeping in the hut (on bunks upstairs) for those who prefer not to sleep in a tent, or if the weather becomes too exciting. I enclose a kit list now so that those who live a long way away can prepare their kit during leave out – there is nothing out of the ordinary. We do have some spare sleeping bags and sleeping mats. We shall issue all the girls with rucksacks on the Friday before we go (8th May). They will be carrying the rucksacks about 1km to the hut, which may stop them packing too much.

KIT LIST FOR CAMPERS

Rucksack containing (inside a dustbin liner):

- Sleeping Bag
- Swimming things
- Waterproof jacket (light)
- Waterproof trousers if you have them
- Extra Jersey
- Gloves and warm hat
- Camera/suncream/mozzi repellent
- Three complete changes of clothing in dustbin liner (to keep it dry) (you will get completely wet twice if you are caving)
- (Shorts)
- Wellington boots in another dustbin liner (to keep everything else clean)
- Washing/night things (be warm)
- Book
- Torch
- Camera

Attach Sleeping Mat to Rucksack

Wear:

- Cotton trousers/tracksuit bottom (not jeans – they are cold when wet)
- Shirt
- Sweatshirt
- Fleece
- Thick socks (or better, two pairs of socks – to prevent blisters)
- Old trainers or walking boots if you have them (or pack them and wear your wellies)
- Sunhat if required

All clothes will get dirty or muddy – do not wear anything smart
It may well be cold at night – several layers are better than one thick layer

NO CD/TAPE MACHINES, RADIOS OR MOBILE PHONES (no reception)
NO MONEY NEEDED (nearest shop 10 miles across dales)