



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

12 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Residential Trip to Eleven Acres Scout Camp, Downe – 16-17 July 2024

I am happy to announce that Newstead Wood School will be putting on a summer 'Bushcraft and Survival' camp at Eleven Acres campsite for Year 8.

The site is in nearby Downe, Orpington, BR6 7JT. This two-day, one night camping trip is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn camping skills and outdoor education in a safe and nearby setting.

The students will come away with a deeper understanding of their own abilities outside the classroom, and they will learn to control themselves and think on their feet when placed outside their comfort zones.

Some of the valuable skills taught include shelter building, first aid and personal responsibility. They will also learn fire craft and knife craft – learning how to use a knife as a tool, not as a toy or a weapon. Lessons on the law are included. Students will be shown proper use and good practice with a knife, and all knives will be given out and taken in by staff for the duration of the camp.

Students will become skilled and responsible with these activities during their stay. They also learn search and rescue techniques, outdoor cooking, wild food foraging, primitive weapon construction and use, animal tracking, teamwork and leadership skills. The idea is to have lots of fun whilst learning essential skills.

The provider company for this is Polaris Outdoor Ltd. They are an LOTC certified company, which provides the highest level of safety and competency in the UK, certified by UK governing bodies. Their website can be found here: [Expeditions, Travel, Bushcraft, Survival Training - Polaris Outdoor](#)

It is important that staff have up-to-date contact information for your daughter, should we need to contact you during the trip (or at any time during school hours). We also require all relevant Medical Information. **A Microsoft form was sent before Christmas to all Year 8 parents, asking that you sign and agree to the Newstead Wood School Code of Conduct which covers all trips, so please ensure this is done.** In addition, to ensure trip safety, we take all emergency contact and medical information from the school database. **Please check the Arbor app** and update the school with any changes, as a priority.

Students must prepare for this trip by having a sleeping bag, sleeping mat, waterproof clothing, a warm hat and a torch, preferably a head torch. Please see the kit list below.

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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As outlined in the previous letter regarding Cultural Arts Week, suggested instalments are outlined below:

- Instalment 1 - £50 by 31 January 2024
- Instalment 2 - £75 by 31 March 2024
- Instalment 3 - £75 by 31 May 2024

Please make all payments via WisePay. Payment constitutes permission to take part in all activities. If you have any financial concerns regarding payment, please contact finance@newsteadwood.co.uk in confidence.

If you require any additional information regarding this trip, please contact me at mbournat@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Bournat
Assistant Head Teacher

KIT LIST

- Sleeping Bag and pillow
- Overnight Bag / Rucksack (No suitcases, please!)
- Toiletries, personal hygiene items and towels
- Torch (head or hand)
- Mug, knife, fork and spoon.
- Boots and a change of appropriate footwear (no flipflops / crocs)
- Appropriate clothing for two days (check the weather forecast!)
- Reading material if required

Please do not bring mobile phones or any other electrical equipment. Newstead Wood School will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal equipment during this trip.