

# Year 8 Outdoor Challenge 2012

## Activities Week

### Saturday 30th June – Thursday 4th July

For boys who are not already booked on to the Spanish trip during activities week, there is the opportunity of an Outdoor Challenge Course in Wales and the Forest of Dean.

You will stay in tent groups of 6-8, at Botany Bay Scout Centre, Tintern, Monmouth, Monmouthshire. We have the run of the whole 22 acre site, including the hall where meals will be served. You will be involved in cooking, including a masterchef competition and cooking mackerel and stuffed bananas in the embers of a campfire.

A range of activities will be provided, including:

- Mountain biking – a full day on challenging trails around the Forest of Dean
- Climbing/caving day – cave exploration, traverses, climbing and descents
- Hillwalking with a summit picnic
- Canoeing – paddle along the Wye, then construct an overnight bivouac at the riverside, continuing your journey in the morning
- Night wide game
- Night hike to a subcamp

The course is being run by Outspark, an organisation run by Mr Buckley, formerly a teacher at the school. Professional instructors will be assisted by school staff, with additional support from young leaders from the sixth form.

While it's the adventurous activities that attract attention, the greatest benefits are the teambuilding and development of independence and confidence that are woven into the whole course.

The cost is £319 (the same as the last four years). We return on the Saturday afternoon rather than Friday in order to fit in an extra day of activities. Consent forms, along with a deposit of £75 or full payment, should be brought to the school office.

This is the sixth year the trip has run. Last year demand meant that we ran two trips, staggered over the Activities Week period. Because of the need to keep activity groups to a certain size and the economics of transport, we can only take 32 participants at a time, and places will be allocated in the order that consent forms and deposits are received. (If, for example, we only get 40 applicants, we will run one trip for 32; if we get 60 applicants as last year we will run two).

Necessary equipment such as sleeping bags or roll mats can be borrowed and tents will be provided, so this is an all-inclusive price.

Parents are welcome to contact Mr Buckley with any questions on 07843 555355 which is also the contact number during the trip, or email [jb@outspark.org.uk](mailto:jb@outspark.org.uk). All instructors will be specialists with appropriate qualifications and experience. Copies of the company's insurance policy available on request.

Information about the trip is available at [www.outspark.org.uk/challenge](http://www.outspark.org.uk/challenge)