

CAVING EXPEDITION 2011 25-27 November

If you were on the outdoor challenge in Year 9 and enjoyed the caving, or have caved somewhere else, this is an opportunity to experience a whole new level of this activity.

We'll be going to the Mendips in Somerset, where the caves are in a different league to those we used during Activities Week. We will be spending some large chunks of time underground. It's an opportunity to combine an adventurous challenge with getting a view of some natural wonders that are not on the tourist trail.

The caving will be led by top caving instructor Andy Sparrow. You can see his website at **www.caveclimb.com**

This is a challenging trip for people who have already decided they like caving, not a taster session for people who want to overcome claustrophobia. So all participants must confirm that they have had some experience of caving, either on the Outdoor Challenge Trip or elsewhere.

Depart from school Friday November 25th straight after school (or at lunchtime if I can get permission and PE don't need the bus). There are 5 year 9s going at present, and three remaining spaces + Dan Biddle and I as leaders.

We'll decide in advance what we want to eat – you'll have a budget, we'll take it in turns to cook, and we have a decent kitchen to use. We'll be staying at the cottage of Mendip Caving Group, where you'll be sleeping in bunk beds.

The fun starts in earnest on Saturday with a morning in Goatchurch Cavern, and an afternoon in the top part of Swildon's Hole which has over 9 kilometres of passages.

On Sunday, it'll be time to get wet as we descend into the more challenging part of Swildon's Hole, finishing with the opportunity for those who are up for it to dive through a sump. Back to school about 9pm.

The cost for the trip is going to be £109 (cheques payable to Sutton Grammar School) – I couldn't quite bring it in under £100 while being sure to cover the costs. If you would like to go, please return the attached consent form with your payment to Mrs Georgiou in the office. The trip has a maximum of 13 and a minimum of 6. (I'll email the consent forms out once I have enough responses to know the trip is viable).

You can email jb@outspark.org.uk or ring me on 07843 555355 with any questions.

Jason Buckley