

# YEAR 9 MENDIPS CAVING EXPEDITION 2011 26-28 October

Boys on the Year 8 Outdoor Challenge in July enjoyed the caving session we had, so I've organised a trip during October half-term to enable up to 13 year 9s to take their interest in caving to a deeper level.

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](http://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 11 a.m. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October (during half term). Maximum of 13 participants so that we can all fit on one minibus.

On the way down, we'll stop at a supermarket to buy our food – 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 Thursday 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 Friday, 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 8.

If there is enough demand, I may run a second trip on November 25-27. So if you would like to go but cannot make the half term dates, please and I'll let you know if there is enough demand to make a second trip viable before asking for payment.

You can email [jb@outspark.org.uk](mailto:jb@outspark.org.uk) or ring me on 07843 555355 with any questions.

Jason Buckley