



Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

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24 November 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 7 ADVENTURE COURSE – TIRABAD **December 4 -11, 2015**

These are the salient points from the briefing that has been given to your son/daughter this afternoon:

FRIDAY'S ARRANGEMENTS

This is a normal school day for them! Suitcases should be brought in **before** school and placed under the stairs. The pupils attend morning tutor time and lessons 1 – 4 inclusive. At the end of period 4 (1.15pm), they will retrieve their suitcases from the under the stairs. The pupils will wait at the entrance to the school. As this is an official school trip, pupils will travel to and from Tirabad in school uniform. You are very welcome to wave goodbye to your child as they set off – leaving time should be about 1.30 pm. Children who suffer from travel sickness should ensure that they take the necessary medication **before** the journey starts. Children who are on medication should hand this to Mr Wallis or Miss Moran before they get on the coach.

COURSE CONTENT

I can confirm that during the week, pupils will be experiencing the following activities:

Forest Adventure Walk, Caving, Archery, Problem Solving, Canoeing, Gully Scrambling, Orienteering, Survival Day.

If you would like further details about these activities, please do hesitate to contact me.

CLOTHING

Quite simply, your child needs two sets of clothes. One set that you don't mind getting muddy (for the days' activities) and a decent set for wearing around the mansion. Please do not buy expensive clothes that your child will probably get very dirty. Be wise in your choice of suitcase – as a rule of thumb, if your child cannot lift it, it's too big! All specialist equipment is provided but experience has told me that sometimes pupils like to bring their own Wellington boots! A copy of the kit list can be found on the school website: <http://maidenerleghschool.co.uk/information/tirabad-2/>

EXPECTATIONS

Your child will naturally be excited by the thought of their first Secondary School trip. We have advised them of the various rules on the coach (pupils must be seat belted at all times, no chewing gum, no drinks bottles) and of the expectations we have of them in terms of working together in duty teams and activity groups.

MOBILE PHONES

As you know, Tirabad has a zero tolerance of mobile phones. However I am mindful of the fact that you will want to know that your child has arrived safely. **For this reason only**, your child may bring a mobile phone. Your child should phone you as soon as they arrive for that purpose - you do need to be aware, however, that mobile phone signals are hard to come by in Tirabad! At the first available opportunity, these phones will then be handed in along with any other valuables, locked away in the safe for the rest of the week and returned to them on the coach home.

MEDICAL FORMS

Thank you for the prompt response of the return of the medical forms. All appropriate information has been passed on to Tirabad so they are aware of any dietary/medical needs. **If there has been any change in circumstance concerning your child's health since handing in the medical form, this information must be notified to Mr Butchers before the trip departs on Friday.**

PAYMENT

If you are still yet to pay, this must now be done as a matter of **urgency**.

CONTACT

If you have an **EMERGENCY** at home and want to contact your child please contact the school during the school day and we will get a message to the centre. Please can you call the centre only if you have an **EMERGENCY** out of school hours, which cannot wait until the next school day.

YOUR CHILD'S WELFARE

Your child's welfare at Tirabad is of paramount importance to us. If a visit to the hospital or doctor is necessary during the week, we will of course contact you immediately. We will also contact you if major first aid is administered, or if your child is distressed. Minor cuts and bruises will be treated accordingly but we will not contact you. Part of the purpose of the residential visit is for students to develop resilience and independence away from home but this objective is always balanced against individual health and wellbeing and the parents' right to know about the child's welfare.

The coach is due back around 12.30 on Friday 11 December (traffic permitting!) – please make arrangements to collect your son/daughter at that time.

If you have any questions relating to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the accompanying members of staff who are Mr Wallis and Miss Moran.

I hope that your son/daughter will find their first visit to Tirabad a rewarding and memorable experience.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Butchers
Activities Coordinator



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