

Our Ref: JWY/MH

6th December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Graduation Residential with The Bushcraft Company.

Your child has been allocated a place on the Year 8 Graduation trip with The Bushcraft Company at Hatfield Woods, in Hertfordshire. We will be leaving on **Monday 26th June 2017** and returning on **Wednesday 28th June 2017**. The three-day residential adventure acts as a fantastic step towards the development of leadership skills, resourcefulness, decision-making and practical thinking from students. Each day will be made up of a range of hands-on workshops, offering a chance to be outdoors in a truly unique environment in which to learn and interact.

Please be aware that in order to attend the residential, students must graduate. Graduation is dependent on your child not receiving any E4s in Praising Stars 4. As a reward for graduating into Year 9 the academy will fund the majority of the visit for your child, therefore we will only require a contribution of £25 from you. Please note that all money paid is non-refundable regardless of the circumstances.

The coach is due to leave school at approximately 8.30am and students do not need to wear their academy uniform. Please ensure your child is in school for 8.00am to register for the visit and drop off luggage and medication in the main hall. We intend to arrive back in school for approximately 6.30pm on **Wednesday 28th June 2017**, **and as parents or carers you are expected to meet your child off the bus.**

Students are advised not to take their mobile phones on the trip, however, we understand that students may need them to contact parents and carers on their way back. Please be aware that all student mobile phones will be kept in the safe at Bushcraft Company for the duration of the trip. If students fail to follow this instruction or misuse their phones, staff have been advised to confiscate phones and parents or carers will be expected to collect phones on return to Outwood Academy Portland.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to an **Information Evening on Thursday 5th January 2017 at 6.00pm in the Main Hall**. We will use this opportunity to explain the itinerary of the trip. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more about the ethos of The Bushcraft Company, its activities, supervisory and safety measures, please visit www.thebushcraftcompany.co.uk.

Students will be sleeping in groups of 10, in large single-sex bell tents. Students will need to have a sleeping bag, roll mat, torch, appropriate footwear and some warm clothes. We appreciate that not all families will have a sleeping bag or roll mat. Decathlon sell sleeping bags for £11.99, and roll mats for £3.00. However, we have a number of hired sleeping bags should you need to borrow one for your child.

Please indicate on the reply slip if you require a sleeping bag, or not, and return to school at the earliest convenience.

I have also attached the compulsory pink consent form that needs to be completed and returned to Student Reception before _____. **If the forms are not returned (or completed in full), your child will not be able to attend.**

Please ensure your £25 contribution is handed in to the Finance Office by the 8th February 2017. If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to 'Outwood Academy Portland' and write your child's name and VMG on the back. You can also pay online using "Scopay". If you haven't set up a Scopay account please contact the academy Finance Office who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Miss Willey
Associate Assistant Principal

Reply slip: Please return to student reception – Graduation Residential 2017

Name: _____ VMG: _____

I do/do not* give permission for the above name student to be considered for the Bushcraft Graduation 2017 trip.

I understand the non-refundable payment of £25 is due by Wednesday 8th February 2017.

I will require a sleeping bag

Signed: _____ (parent/carer) Date: _____