

Kent Mountain Centre Visit - November 2017

NOTES FOR PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS

- DEPARTURE** Sunday 29 October 2017, Broadstairs Road entrance. **The departure time is 8:30am but may be changed** (see FURTHER INFORMATION below). The school gates will **not** be open. If you arrive before the coach, please leave a large space for it at the bus stops outside the school.
- RETURN** Approx. 5:00pm, Saturday 4 November 2017, Broadstairs Road entrance. Pupils will be able to telephone ahead from Medway Services (about 1 hour from Broadstairs). Please provide your child with a **landline** 'phone number to contact for this call if at all possible.
- EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER** If you cannot contact the Mountain Centre directly on (01286) 870216 or (01286) 870776 then use (01843) 864941 (Dane Court) during office hours.
- POCKET MONEY** There will be very little need or opportunity to spend pocket money; a total of £10.00 will be ample.
- EQUIPMENT** If pupils have their own boots they may find them useful for certain activities.
- SCHOOL WORK** Each pupil must make every effort to catch up work missed during the week of the visit. All teaching staff are aware of the visit but it remains the responsibility of individual pupils, before departure, to enquire about the work to be done. Failure to complete this work may jeopardise future visits to the Mountain Centre.
- INSURANCE** A policy has been purchased that covers all participants at all times. The areas of indemnity are; cancellation and emergency travel, personal effects, accident liability. There is, however, a significant excess related to these categories. A very small amount of personal accident insurance is also included.
- CONDUCT** This trip is all about enjoyment. To get the most from the activities it is necessary to understand and carry out instructions, failure to do so could have serious consequences for the safety of individuals and groups. For this reason, I must reserve the right to withdraw individuals from activities. Limitations on supervision mean that such an action would almost certainly result in that individual returning to Kent.

The accommodation is comfortable but compact; every individual must be tolerant, considerate, cooperative and helpful towards their fellow participants. Every participant takes a turn at helping with the serving of meals and the subsequent clearing and washing up. Individuals are expected to carry out these tasks cheerfully and maturely, treating others as they would expect to be treated themselves.

Smoking and alcohol are not permitted at any time during the trip.

- FOOD** The Centre is renowned for the quality and quantity of food that it provides.
- HEALTH** All meals, including the packed lunch, are carefully designed to provide the much-increased energy levels required by participants in a week of strenuous activities. Pupils must ensure that they eat a full and balanced diet throughout the week. It is neither safe nor possible to survive on sweets and chips!
Anybody eating improperly risks not only their own safety but that of their fellow pupils.
The Centre does not permit food to be kept in dormitories.
- TIDINESS AND PERSONAL HYGIENE** Your child will be accommodated in a dormitory with one to seven fellow pupils. Although the Centre does employ cleaning staff on a daily basis, untidy rooms make their job very difficult.
The occupants of each dormitory are responsible for keeping it tidy and hygienic. To help ensure that this happens, dormitories will be checked daily at 8:30am and every participant is expected to shower between the end of the day's activities and dinner.
Each person must organise their own clothing and equipment, particularly wet items, and make full and proper use of the Drying and Changing rooms and the boot storage facility.
- CHANGING CLOTHES DURING ACTIVITIES** During some outdoor activities, it may be required that participants change into special equipment (e.g. a wetsuit) or out of wet clothes. When this is the case, pupils will be warned before leaving the Centre and separate outdoor changing areas will be allocated for boys and girls.
- MOBILE PHONES** During activities, staff and instructors will carry mobile 'phones or VHF radios for use in emergencies.
At other times pupils will be able to use the payphone at the Centre.
Mobile phones are not permitted on this trip because;
- there are no facilities for recharging the batteries,
 - they would be very vulnerable to loss or damage
 - their use could be easily abused if a serious incident (e.g. injury) were to occur whilst we are at the Centre
 - and finally (and most importantly) their use detracts from the adventurous, independent-living atmosphere on the visit that we work so hard to promote.
- FURTHER INFORMATION** Visit the **Dane Court Grammar School KMC Blog** at indoorsout.co.uk/blog for copies of this document and the kit list.
There is also a **Frequently Asked Questions** page on the blog.
Of course, if you have any other questions please do contact Mr Alderson at the school or via the above website.
Support the Dane Court KMC Blog at indoorsout.co.uk/blog by visiting it regularly and reading the daily activity reports.

PLEASE NOTE: Before and during this visit, any important messages (such as changes to timings) will be posted on the front page of the blog.
PLEASE ENSURE YOU VISIT IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE