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12 October 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted to inform you that our activities programme for 2017 has been launched this week with an assembly to the participating year groups 8, 9 and 12. The range of activities is broader than ever, both on and off Island. You will find all the details in the booklet on the College website.

In the assembly I used the example of the inspiration which Dame Ellen MacArthur felt on her first sailing activity, aged four. It was an experience which set her ambition to sail around the world, single-handed. And, I quoted Ben Saunders, the Polar Explorer:

Experiencing something new now and then is a good thing. If all you ever do is strive to stay wrapped up in your little cocoon, keeping warm and cosy, you may be missing out on quite a lot – on new experiences, on challenges, and even the opportunity to fail in order to get better. And looking at the bigger picture of life, if you can't step out of your comfort zone you may experience difficulty making change or transitioning, growing, and ultimately, transforming; in other words, all those things that define who you are and give your life personal meaning.

I am very keen to encourage the students to step out of their comfort zone. I would be grateful if you would look through the activities with your daughter and encourage them to see things with an open mind. They should not be hasty about their choices. An important question is, *what will the activity add to who they are now?* And for them to ask themselves, *how they might be different or better after their activity?* This might mean that they take themselves out of what they know, both in terms of the activity itself and who they spend their time with, over the week. I have asked all the activity leaders to factor in time for their participants to reflect on what capacities they are developing and experiencing in order to support this awareness.

There are activities to suit all tastes and abilities - whether your daughter chooses to go away or stay on the island there should be something of interest to her. Activities Week gives the students a chance to learn new skills, try different activities, and explore new environments. It also helps them to get to know other students in different year groups and see staff in a less formal setting.

Please complete the registration form and return it to the College Office by **Friday 21st, October**. Please be aware that it may not always be possible to guarantee that students will get their first choice, particularly for very popular activities. For this reason, your daughter should consider carefully her second and third choice. In the event that a student selects three off-Island activities and all are fully subscribed, she will be asked to resubmit choices from the available activities. I recommend, therefore, that students have at least one on-Island activity in their choices. In the event that an activity or trip is oversubscribed a waiting list will be kept. Once the date has passed for applications these will be sorted and careful consideration given to the choices made.

Please also note that many of the on-island activities are at different locations around the island and getting to the venues is your daughter's responsibility.

For students in Year 9: should your daughter be considering applying to Hautlieu she must only select an on-Island activity as she will not be able to take part in Activities Week if she is successful in gaining a place. Please indicate on the form if this is a possibility.

I will notify you when the places have been allocated and you will need to confirm your acceptance of the place offered by way of a deposit; this deposit is non-refundable, and usually non-transferable. Upon receipt of the deposit the activity leader will be in touch with you regarding further payments and details. It is JCG policy that if full payment is not received by the deadline given, students will not be allowed to participate. JCG makes use of the insurance cover provided by ESC; in the event of a claim becoming necessary or your daughter please note that the £50 insurance excess will apply.

A fund exists to assist students wishing to access the wide range of school trips and expeditions. The maximum monetary value a student can receive per academic year is £1,000. The award is dependent upon the household income not exceeding £54,000 per annum. If a student wishes to request financial assistance for more than one trip, this will be considered up to the maximum of £1,000 in total for all trips in the academic year. For those students receiving a bursary, applications for financial assistance up to a maximum of £1,000 per academic year, should be made in writing to the Principal. If you would like to apply for financial assistance for a trip please contact Mrs Lisa Biddlecombe, PA to the Principal, at l.biddlecombe@jcg.sch.je who will be happy to send you an application form.

I hope you and your daughter enjoy the discussion that follows in order to select the three choices which will guide us in finding the appropriate activity for her during this very special week.

I take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to all the staff at the College, both teaching and non-teaching, who work so hard to make Activities Week such a memorable experience for our students.

Activities Week this year will take place the week of 17 to 21 of July 2017.

Warmest regards



Kris Spencer
Activities Week Co-ordinator
k.spencer@jcg.sch.je

ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2017

Please hand this form to the school office by 3.30 pm, Friday 21 October

Name _____

Form _____ Parent email contact details: _____

Activity Choice 1: _____

Activity Choice 2: _____

Activity Choice 3: _____

I am happy to give permission for my daughter to be registered for the above activities and understand that these are not allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and that failure to return the slip by the date stipulated may result in disappointment.

I understand that the deposit to secure her place on the activity is non-refundable and non-transferable. Please note that deposits for off-Island trips will be due very shortly in order to secure travel and accommodation.

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Date: _____