

30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **YEAR 8 WELSH FARM TRIPS 2017**

It is a well-established John Mason tradition that our students visit our 'famous' Welsh Farm in June and July of Year 8.

The farm experience offers an opportunity to work in a very different environment to what they are used to. This is not only enjoyable, but also tremendously valuable in highlighting such qualities as co-operation, consideration and determination. Students are fully involved in the planning of the trips, and from their arrival at the farm they meet a whole range of challenges. There are outdoor activities such as long walks, use of map and compass, sleeping-out and adventure games and whilst back at the house they have to organise, share and carry out all the cooking, cleaning and other chores, under staff supervision.

Below are the dates of the six planned trips:

<b>Form</b>	<b>Dates</b>
8 ABG	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June - Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June
8 RMW	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June - Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
8 LN	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July - Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
8 CJD	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July - Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
8 GRG	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July - Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July
8 GG	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July - Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July

#### **What is the Welsh farm?**

The farm is an isolated building, set in beautiful countryside that is mostly used for sheep farming and forestry, between the Welsh market towns of Llandeilo and Llandovery. It is not a dangerous place but our students do have to live in quite 'rough and ready' surroundings. They need to act with complete co-operation and responsibility. Please be aware that at certain times, most notably during the long orienteering course and during the (one gender at a time) sleeping out in bivouac exercises, students will not be *directly* supervised by a member of staff. At no point during these exercises will students be in groups of less than four.

#### **The cost of the trip:**

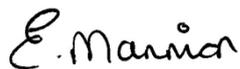
The trip costs £130.00. We hope that most families will be able to meet this price but we do not want to restrict students who are unable to afford this. The cost of the board and lodging elements (which amount to £110.00 out of the £130.00) is legally and fully chargeable but the cost of transport and supply cover (the remaining £20.00) must, by law, be raised only by genuinely voluntary contributions. Obviously in such difficult financial times, we rely on these voluntary contributions if the farm visits are to go ahead. If you are on income support and are unable to make the full payment please contact me and we can make alternative arrangements.

We encourage all students to take part; it is an incredibly important part of team building with their tutor groups. **We will be holding an information evening on Monday 27th February 2017 at 6.30pm in the main school hall and will be pleased to see you there.** If you want to know any further details at this point please get in touch with either your child's form tutor or myself.

**To confirm your place on the trip, please return the reply slip by the 24th February 2017 with a deposit of £30. Payment can be made via Parentmail or by cheque made payable to John Mason Association Welsh Farm Account.** The balance of £100 can be made in full or part payments on Parentmail .The final amount will need to reach us by 9<sup>th</sup> June at the latest.

Mrs Sissons and I must make it clear that attendance on this trip is a privilege and not a right. Students who cannot be trusted to behave will not be permitted to go and we will only consider taking students who have a good attendance record.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Mannion  
Welsh Farm Manager



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Please return by 24<sup>th</sup> February and deposit in the safe by Student Services.  
**Year 8 Welsh Farm Trip 2017**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

I have made payment via Parentmail

I enclose a deposit payment of £30.  
(delete as appropriate)

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to

**JOHN MASON ASSOCIATION WELSH FARM ACCOUNT**

and **NOT** to John Mason School or Oxfordshire County Council.

Please ensure that you write your child's name and form  
on the back of all cheque payments and return to the school office.

