

## Year 9 Outdoor Learning Program – Wellington Dam Expedition

25 October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We write to inform our Year 9 families of the upcoming Outdoor Learning Program (OLP), which will take place from **Monday 25 November to Thursday 28 November**. The program will be based on the banks of the Wellington Dam, in the Collie region partnered with The Outdoor Education Group.

### DEPARTURE

Students will depart on **Monday 25 November** from the DLD car park. Students will need to arrive at school by **8.00am** to meet their group leader on the grass opposite the DLD, have their attendance registered, baggage loaded onto the nominated coach and be ready to depart at **8.30am**.

*Please note: The coaches are on a strict time schedule and are not able to wait for any late arrivals.*

On the day of departure, students will need to carry with them: morning tea, lunch, a hat and a full water bottle. These items can be packed in a small day pack/backpack for students (separate to their primary clothes bag). After lunch on the first day, all meals will be catered for.

### RETURN

Students will return to School on **Thursday 28 November** at approximately **3.30pm** and can be collected from the DLD bus bays at this time. Notification to parents by the Senior School Administration will occur if there are significant changes to our estimated return time.

### STAFFING

Guildford Grammar School staff in attendance:

- Tim Angeloni
- Jason Zours
- Kieran Hurley
- Mark Underwood
- Corey Gault
- Phoebe Gatsos
- Lauren Continibali
- James Claxon
- Oscar King
- Sophie Mercer
- Ciaran Tangney
- Kirsty Anderson
- James Higgins
- Pete Allen
- As well as additional education support staff.

## PROGRAM

We partner with The Outdoor Education Group who provide activity support, facilitation, catering and equipment for the complete program. The Year 9 OLP experience is sequenced as a continuation of our Outdoor Learning Program and connects prior learning and skill development in a new environment. This adventure takes place late in Term 4, allowing students to enjoy kinder environmental conditions and a slower pace, while strengthening and solidifying relationships as they round out another school year.

Personal attributes, such as cooperation, acceptance, support, determination responsibility and trust will be inherent within all activities. Students will have the opportunity to deeply engage in the local environment and will spend three nights sleeping in expedition tents.

Activities planned for the program include:

- Canoeing on the Wellington Dam
- Abseiling at Potters Gorge
- Bushwalking on the Bibbulmun Track.

We expect students will find the program a challenging and highly rewarding experience. However, the program is certainly not designed to push students beyond their means. The adoption of a 'challenge by choice' attitude to activities allows students to define and set their own personal boundaries. Above all, the program is designed to be a FUN and memorable experience.

## MEDICAL & DIETARY MATTERS

Please note, if you have a child with medical and/or dietary needs:

- You may be asked to complete an additional Medical Advisory plan in the weeks leading up to the program. All information will be strictly confidential. We appreciate you providing as much detailed information as you can, as this will help ensure the safest and most enjoyable time for your child. We will contact you if we need additional information.
- If your child requires daily medication, it is essential to have your local pharmacy/chemist prepare a 'blister' or 'Webster' pack indicating medication dosage, day, and time, to ensure that this can be easily managed by your child and school staff. Prescription medications, once blister packed by your pharmacist, will need to be dropped at Senior School Administration by no later than **Thursday 21 November**. This allows our Medical Team sufficient time to correctly process medications and follow up any discrepancies in our documentation.
- Students will be participating in water activities while on program (canoeing). All students will be wearing personal flotation devices while participating. Although entering the water is unlikely, as a precaution we ask you to, please select 'non-swimmer' when completing the online consent documentation through Consent2Go. Alternative activities will be provided for non-swimmers.

In the coming week you will receive correspondence from MCBschools, which is our student management platform responsible for maintaining student medical and dietary information. If your child's medical details have changed, or if you are unsure, please follow the prompts to check and update details.



## Guildford Grammar School

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### PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

A parent presentation is planned for **Wednesday 6 November at 3.30pm** conducted by Mr Jason Zaus (Director of Outdoor Learning) and Mr Tim Angeloni (OLP Coordinator). This will be held in the Senior School DLD theatre and we will conclude our time together with an informal Q&A session. Your attendance at this session is not compulsory, however if you have any questions about the upcoming Year 9 Program, or would simply like to hear more, this is a great opportunity to connect. We look forward to seeing you there.

### STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

The accepted School expectations for appropriate student behaviour apply while attending the Year 9 Outdoor Learning Program. The GGS Positive Behaviour Trail supports our students, informing positive choices and expectations. Students are reminded that at no time are they allowed to move away from the campsite or an activity without a staff member's permission. Students are not allowed to be out of bed at night after 'lights out' without an appropriate reason. Students' concern for the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others must always be paramount.

Any breach of the stated behavioural expectations may result in the student concerned being sent home early from the program. In such a situation, the family would be expected to cover any additional costs incurred.

Students are **NOT** permitted to bring electronic items including: phones, Apple watches, Apple air tags, personal music players/speakers or electronic games. Digital cameras are permitted, they are optional.

### STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

A list of student requirements is found at the end of this letter. Please label all clothing items as this makes it much easier for us to return items to you. Additionally, on the weekend of 7-10 November, Kathmandu (Midland Gate), will be hosting an exclusive 'Gear Up' event for Guildford Grammar Year 9 students. They will be offering considerable discounts, fitting and professional advice on many outdoor learning related products (if you do not have an item and it's not possible to borrow it).

### LUGGAGE

All items taken to camp should fit into ONE duffel bag (students must be able to carry) or similar soft shell bag. Enormous suitcases are not suitable. Students are to come to School on Monday in their casual program clothes ready for OLP.

As per Guildford Grammar Schools Fees and Charges, the Schools Outdoor Learning Program is compulsory and considered part of the holistic education offerings. Associated fees are non-refundable as costs incurred in operating the OLP are not lessened by the absence of individual students.

Should you have any queries, please contact Jason Zaus (Director of Outdoor Learning) or Tim Angeloni (Outdoor Learning Program Coordinator) via phone or email.

Yours sincerely

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