

25 June 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 10 OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Towards the end of Term 4, students will be involved in a week long Outdoor Education Programme. Most of the activities start on Monday 30 November and run through to Friday 4 December 2015.

As a school, we create programmes which match our Physical Education – Outdoor Education policy, offering experiences which enrich the years of your son's time at Palmerston North Boys' High School. It is our intention each year to provide a range of programmes to cater for the varied interests within the Year 10 student body. This does lead to a range of costs. The costs of such programmes are carefully considered, but inevitable. Besides any commercial activity costs, the bulk of costs arise from transport and accommodation expenses.

All of us are aware of the extra financial demands on families. We have attempted to minimise costs by avoiding excessive use of commercial providers. I encourage all families to explore practical payment options over the five months between now and December. Please e-mail (or ring) Miss Hoppe (Finance Office – e-mail hoppem@pnbhs.school.nz) / 06 354 5176 Ext. 799) earlier rather than later if you wish to discuss such options. I would encourage an automatic payment process to be set up through Miss Hoppe to minimise the impact of larger payments of camp fees. Such payment schemes can involve a greater number of regular payments of smaller amounts.

To ensure greatest equity among all students when choosing camps, we have:

- (1) **Introduced the camps to students some five months before final payment is due.**
- (2) **Used the school fees system for the initial \$30 deposit.**
- (3) **Set up a three-step payment procedure over these six months, with three payments of 33% of the balance of camp costs due in Week 5, Term 3, Week 2, Term 4, and Week 6, Term 4. (Flexibility exists within the time frame - full payment or part payments can be made at any time over the five months and payments can be large or small.)**

It is inevitable that students will sometimes miss out on their first choice of programme. Some camps attract interest from too large a group for the number of places available. In order that each student has a fair chance of attending the camp of his choice, we will use the following procedure:

- (a) Students are to carefully select **five** activities and rank them in order of preference, **1** being the most preferred.
- (b) By **Tuesday 30 June** students must have returned to the Student Support Office (Mrs Shorter), an **envelope** with the following details **on the front: Student name, form class and the five options listed from 1 to 5.** (Write the **full name** of the activity).
- (c) Envelopes will be drawn randomly, and students will be placed into one of their choices, according to places remaining available. Camp selection will be complete by Thursday 19 June and camp lists will be posted on **Friday 3 July.**

The three classes involved in NCEA assessment this year will be attending this year's camps. Their final NCEA examination is during the week before the camp programme. **All students in these two classes can attend any camp.**

Some of the camp costs do **not** include food. For these camps the boys will be involved in a group budgeting exercise that gets them to plan the food that their group are going to need and to buy it themselves.

Permission slips, full gear lists, times of departure and other information will be supplied by the teacher in charge of the activity closer to the camps.

It is expected that all students will be involved in the Outdoor Education programme. If you have any concerns about actual camps or related costs, please phone and discuss your concerns with Mr Miller.

At a later date (Term 4), an evening meeting will be arranged so that parents can talk to staff in charge of each activity.

The time frame set for camp selection is to enable **all** students to consider **all** camps.

College House students need to communicate effectively with their parents either over the weekend or by phone.

If you have any questions or concerns about the programme, please ring me (Mr G Miller) during school hours, at 354 5176.

Yours faithfully

G Miller (Coordinator EOTC Programmes)