

Tuesday 28 June 2022
els/pmt/GambiaExped2023/update

Dear Parents

The Gambia Expedition – August 2023

I am pleased to be able to confirm that your son/daughter has been allocated a place on the St John's/Venture Force 2023 The Gambia expedition team. The team will be traveling to The Gambia August 2023 to take part in a 21-day expedition, working alongside a local Gambian community on a worthwhile and sustainable village project.

A deposit of **£400** is now required by Venture Force, with the remaining balance of the expedition being paid in monthly instalments. All payments are to be made directly to the school via ParentPay or cheque. **Please note that the full balance must be paid by Sunday 4 June 2023. Failure to do so will unfortunately result in your son/daughter being unable to travel**

Below is outline of the expedition details.

Travel Dates: <i>(dates will be confirmed at a later date)</i>	Depart – Wednesday 2 August 2023 Return – Thursday 24 August 2023			
Cost:	£3247.00 (Inc £47.00 Admin Fees) <i>(Students will be encouraged and supported to fundraise as much of the cost themselves as possible)</i>		This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training weekend • International Flights • All in-country travel • All in-country activities, food & accommodation • Comprehensive travel & medical insurance • Team t-shirt • Online expedition portal • Carbon off-setting 	
Payment Schedule: <i>(It is essential that payments are paid on time)</i>	£400 Deposit	04/07/2022	£259.00	04/01/2023
	£259.00	04/08/2022	£259.00	04/02/2023
	£259.00	04/09/2022	£259.00	04/03/2023
	£259.00	04/10/2022	£259.00	04/04/2023
	£259.00	04/11/2022	£259.00	04/05/2023
	£259.00	04/12/2022	£257.00	04/06/2023
Not included in the expedition cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinations • Visas • UK based Travel 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal equipment • Spending money • Covid-19 testing if required at time of travel 	

Payment should be made online through ParentPay. *If you have mislaid your log in details, please contact Mrs Shirley Woodburn on 01672 519567 or by emailing swoodburn@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk.*

Payment can still be made by cheque (payable to 'St John's Marlborough'), returning it via the financial mailbox in the Atrium by the exit to the tennis/netball courts. Please indicate on the envelope the name of the trip and the student's full name. You can choose to pay online for any instalment during the process even if you have initially paid by cheque. **For security purposes we request that you do not make payments in cash, the Academy cannot be held responsible for the non-receipt of cash payments from students.**

Payments are non-returnable unless the trip is cancelled by the school. Should the student be withdrawn by parental request, this will be taken as disinclination to travel and therefore parents will be liable for all costs incurred. unless there is a substantiated medical reason for doing so. All such withdrawals should be discussed, in the first instance, with Mrs Pauline Marshall-Thomas via trips@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk or DD 01672 518896. *Parents will need to refer to Venture Forces Terms and Conditions regarding any refund which may be available to you. <https://www.ventureforce.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/VF-Terms-and-Conditions-School-Groups-Oct-21b.pdf>*

Expedition deposit of £400 is due on or before Monday 4 July 2022

Should you require any further details, please contact me via St John's.

Yours faithfully

**Miss E Stanton
St John's Expedition Contact**

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROJECT, THE GAMBIA 2023

TRAINING WEEKEND PROGRAMME 18-19 MARCH 2023

Saturday	Session	Comments
0900-0930	Arrival, Meet & Greet	All
0930-0945	Accommodation check	All
0945-1005	Kit drop and beverage	All
1001-1100	Teambuilding	TT & KM
1110-1140	Vehicle Checks	TT & KM
1200-1300	Lunch	
1300-1345	Hindsight presentation intro	KM
1345-1430	Presentation prep	All
1430-1445	Break	
1445-1515	Code of Conduct/Behaviour	All
1515-1545	Kit and equipment	TT & KM
1545-1615	Walk and talk	TT & KM
1615-1715	Presentation prep	All
1715-1800	Evening Meal Prep	In line with meal plan. Team to prepare
1800-1845	Evening Meal	Including clean up
1845-1930	Gambia talk inc. Q&A	Alex
1930-2030	Presentation prep	All
2030-2200	Relaxation/Discussion	All
Sunday	Session	Comments
0715-0815	Breakfast & packing	In line with meal plan. Team to prepare
0815-1030	Presentations	All
1030-1130	Discussion & Summary	TT/KM
11:30-1200	Load Vehicle/Parent Pick Up	All
1200	Depart for St John's School	All