Dear Parents/Guardian and Year 11 Students,

Preparation has commenced for the Year 11 Leadership Course. The Leadership Course is a significant and exciting opportunity for Year 11 students to extend and challenge themselves, and the College is keen that all students attend. The exciting and well regarded course is the culmination of the College’s Outdoor Education program, and offers unique challenges and opportunities for self-development and leadership enhancement.

YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP COURSE – Stage 1 Outdoor Education - 10 Credit Subject

The main part of the course will be run in the West MacDonnell National Park and surrounding area to the west of Standley Chasm. This area lends itself well to the various adventure activities the students undertake, such as bushwalking, abseiling, rock climbing, canyoning and a 48 hour solo. The level of adventure is high and the course is a significant physical challenge.

This Course focuses particularly on leadership, communication and self-reflection. It is an extension of the Year 9 Endeavour Camp and the Year 10 Mittagundi Winter Camp, in that it follows the same style, and challenges the students in similar ways. However, attending either of these camps is not a prerequisite. Although the students learn a number of bush craft skills, this is not the primary purpose of the course. The course aims to build confidence, raise self-esteem, increase initiative, encourage leadership and develop strategies that can be used successfully, individually or in a group.

Students will be notified of their day of departure in late Term 2, once final numbers are known. All groups should meet at the College roundabout at 8am on the morning of their allocated departure and will be ready to go home by 3pm on the day they return.

PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING – all students should have attended

An Information Night will be held on Tuesday 10th February in The Minnamurra Hall at 7pm. A copy of the presentation will be available on the college website.

PARTICIPATION

As for Endeavour Camp and Mittagundi, the opportunities and dynamics of the Leadership Course are complemented by the ideal of ‘Challenge by Choice’. This puts the ownership of decisions to attend and participate strongly in the hands of the student and their parents – the Leadership Course is not compulsory. This ideal is put strongly to all students, that the decision to challenge themselves is their own. This means that all participants come enthused, willing to learn and to try hard. In recent years most Year 11 students have attended.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP COURSE:

Please advise in writing immediately if your son or daughter is not attending the course
- To have students understand more about the dynamics of leadership, including leadership styles and techniques, through theoretical study and practical experimentation.

- To have students better their communication skills, particularly when dealing with large groups. For students to learn, through theoretical discussion and practical experience, techniques that facilitate effective communication.

- For students to be provided with time to assess who they are as a person, and where they are going in the near future. This introspective thought will be free from the pressures of their parents, teachers, friends, and peers. This time will include setting goals for the future that will help them keep ‘on track’ for their life journey.

- The leadership skills, communication skills, and self-reflection structured into this course help them to prepare for positions of responsibility within the College, as well as their future years of study or in the work force.

- This Leadership Course is also recognized as a 10 Credit Stage 1 Subject which will be shown on students’ academic transcripts.

**CAMP DATES AND GROUPS**

This year the Leadership Course will be held during the last week of Term 2 holidays and the first week of Term 3, between Sunday 12th July and Friday 24th July.

Students will be divided into groups and will depart on one of the following dates:

- Sunday 12th July – all groups pre course meeting 9-11am
- Monday 13th July, returning Wednesday 22nd July (2 groups)
- Tuesday 14th July, returning Thursday 23rd July (2 groups)
- Wednesday 15th July, returning Friday 24th July (2 groups)

Provision will be made for students who have important commitments near the beginning or end of the course, this must be requested by the 30th April in writing or by email to David Atkins only.

**NOTE:**

If a student requires a placement in a particular dated group because of important commitments elsewhere, please submit an email by the 30th April. You should expect a response by email.

**COURSE COSTS**

The cost of the course is $730, and has already been added to your statement of fees. Please advise in writing if your son or daughter will not be attending by **30th April to ensure your account can be credited**. Costs will be incurred after this and a refund will not be possible. In the event that a student is withdrawn at late notice from the Course due to medical reasons, it may not be possible to organise a refund. The College will endeavour to negotiate the best financial outcome according to the circumstances.

The cost includes all food (except lunch on the first day), all specialist equipment (except rain Jacket hire), transport and expert staffing and St John Ambulance subscription.

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Some important points for incoming international exchange students:

- Please study the equipment list prior to your departure as it will be easier for you to bring some of the key clothing items (copy available on the Outdoor Education section of the College website). Some equipment will be available through Sandi Crogan on arrival. The inflatable mattress can be purchased for approximately AUD$30 in Alice Springs at Lone Dingo (please get them early).

- Please organise payment beforehand or immediately upon arrival.
Please fax (or scan and then email) a signed copy of the Medical Consent Form before you leave, or return it immediately upon arrival. It must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

**GIRLS ON CAMP**

Female staff will meet with all Year 11 girls to assist with their understanding of practicalities on camp, and address any anxieties. This would be during the pre-departure meeting or through female Outdoor Education staff at the college.

**MEDICAL AND CONSENT FORM & EQUIPMENT LIST**

For planning to continue, could you please return the attached Medical Consent Form to Student Access by **Thursday 30th April**. Students who suffer from Asthma must complete an Asthma Management Form, and those that have an allergy/allergies must complete an Allergy Management Form. These forms are available at Student Access or on the College website.

Students are asked to bring clothing and personal items. However, food, rucksacks, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and shelters are supplied to ensure that all students operate in the same conditions and that appropriate equipment is used. An equipment list is attached.

A detailed equipment list is attached so you may begin gathering the correct clothing and equipment early. Please refer to the list for important information and guidance. The correct equipment is essential.

**ABSEIL PRACTICE**

Each student attending the Year 11 Leadership Course must complete a supervised abseil practice with College Outdoor Education staff. These sessions ensure that students are confident enough to complete the abseil they will encounter during the course. The practice sessions take place on The Minnamurra Hall balcony. These sessions will be held at lunchtimes during Term 2 (and announced in the term 2 calendar).

**PRE DEPARTURE MEETING – for students only**

This meeting is set for **Sunday 12th July** (this is in the holidays) between 9:00am and 11:00am where students will meet with their group leaders and find out any last minute details. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the College by phone or email.

Yours sincerely,

David Atkins
Head of Outdoor Education

Phone: 8950 4511
Fax: 8950 4522
E-mail: david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au

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 IMMEDIATE: Catch up on the Information Session by looking at the PDF presentation on the website.
 URGENT: Notify in writing, if your son and daughter is not attending by Thursday 30th April to ensure a full refund.
 ESSENTIAL: Have your son/daughter return a completed Medical/Consent Form to Student Access by Thursday 30th April. An Asthma Management Form should be completed by all asthmatics and an Allergy Management Form by those who have allergies.
 ESSENTIAL: Register email with David Atkins david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au

To do:

- IMPROVE: Catch up on the Information Session by looking at the PDF presentation on the website.
- URGENT: Notify in writing, if your son and daughter is not attending by Thursday 30th April to ensure a full refund.
- ESSENTIAL: Have your son/daughter return a completed Medical/Consent Form to Student Access by Thursday 30th April. An Asthma Management Form should be completed by all asthmatics and an Allergy Management Form by those who have allergies.
- ESSENTIAL: Register email with David Atkins david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au
OPTIONAL: If your son/daughter needs to be allocated to a specific group because of significant family/sporting reasons please advise by email or written note by the end of Term 1.

OPTIONAL: If you wish to hire a waterproof jacket please submit the attached form and payment by the end of Term 1.