

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Ms Miranda Baldwin



18 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: St Matthew Academy – School Expedition, Kenya Explore 2019.

As a school, we are very excited to announce that we have chosen to partner with Camps International to offer students in Years 9 and 10 the opportunity to go on a life-changing 4-week expedition to Kenya during the summer of 2019.

This expedition will allow students to live alongside rural communities and work on projects which could include helping to build classrooms, community centres, combating deforestation or protecting wildlife. Students will also undertake an adventure element, and this year we have chosen a 3-day forest trek on Mount Kasigau with a 2-day safari in the National Park.

Since Camps International started running expeditions in 2002, over 22,000 students have travelled with them from around the world. These students have collectively completed over 80,000 weeks of volunteering, worked on truly inspirational projects which have positively impacted on the lives of over 103,000 people.

We have chosen to offer students the chance of going on expedition as we recognise the benefits not only to the communities they will be supporting, but because it is a fantastic opportunity for their own personal development – creating unforgettable memories and undertaking an incredible experience which they can include in university and job applications.

Students gain and demonstrate a huge number of skills and experiences through their fundraising activities and during the lead up to and on their expedition. Every year, most of the students who undertake expeditions like this, fundraise 75% or more of the total cost of their expedition.

Going on expedition is an amazing opportunity for your son or daughter to step outside their usual comfort zone and into another culture and country, putting their learning into practice. Whilst away, students grow in self-confidence, improve their communication and team building skills and experience first-hand how much impact just one person, working as part of a team, can have on the world.

They will have the opportunity to apply for a Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Level 3, which on successful completion can help to boost their UCAS points. Information about this award and others which students can benefit from, will be explained at the presentation.

Camps International will be launching the expedition to students next week and we will then be inviting you to attend a presentation evening where they will explain the expedition in detail and answer any questions you may have.

The Parents Presentation is: Thursday 5th July at 6.30pm in the Main Hall.

We look forward to seeing you at the presentation, so please keep this date free.

If you'd like to see examples of previous summers' expeditions to Kenya, you can see photos at the Camps Twitter feed www.twitter.com/campkenya

Yours sincerely



Ms M Baldwin

Head of School

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