

Education Department

Director: Mhairi Shaw, DCE

Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire G78 1SY

Mearns Castle High School

Head Teacher: Dean T Smith MA

Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire, G77 5GU

Phone: 0141 577 2300 Fax: 0141 577 2314

e-mail: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Our Ref: SG/TM

Date: 12 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will no doubt be aware, the World Challenge Tanzania trip is fast approaching! Before departing on expedition there will be a build-up day to allow for final preparations, such as checking kit, distributing group kit and meeting our leaders. Build-up day will take place on **Tuesday 9 June 2020** where challengers will be off timetable to allow them to be involved in a number of activities to prepare for expedition. This will include a kit check, and challengers are being asked to bring in their **packed rucksacks** on that day. Please remember that the kit list also includes **two photocopies of their passport, two passport photos and two copies of their vaccination card/record**. Pupils may be asked to remove any items deemed unnecessary if they do not match the kit list and may be advised to change some items. Additional clothing for travel is not required, as pupils will wear items from their kit list. Please note that any shorts taken should be knee length and no shorter, and leggings are not permitted at all. After this process, unless advised, pupils should not remove or add anything to their bag, and we ask for your cooperation with this. Group kit will be also be distributed, so it will be essential that approximately 10 litres of space is left in each challenger's rucksack for this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that challengers will not be allowed to take mobile phones or any device that allows them to connect to the internet when on expedition. We understand that pupils may wish to take personal music systems with them, but this should not be on a phone, and we would always advise that the less expensive the better! Pupils will be responsible for any items of technology they take.

On the day of departure, pupils are required to be at the airport on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 3am to meet with the World Challenge leader and teachers. Parents should arrange transportation for this. **Please be advised that parents are requested not to come in to the airport with pupils, but to drop them off at the designated drop-off points outside the airport**. Parents are also required to make arrangements to collect pupils on their return on 25 June 2020 at 10am. Details of flight times are on the World Challenge website, though please check with the airline for updated information on the day in case there are any delays.

Finally, I must stress the importance of making sure that your child's current and past medical information is completely up to date on the World Challenge website. If any medical information is missing and your child requires medical attention related to an undeclared health problem while away they will **not** be covered by insurance. Furthermore, while we realise that all pupils on expedition are young adults and will be perfectly responsible in taking pain killers when required, it is crucial that they inform us when they have taken painkillers. If a medical situation does arise it will be essential that we have knowledge of what medication has been self-administered. I am sure you will appreciate the importance of this and will support us in stressing this point to your child.

If you have any additional queries please do not hesitate in contacting me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Spencer Gooch
World Challenge School Leader