



To Parents/Carers of Pupils/Students in Years 11 and 12

2nd November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Operation Wallacea Trip to South Africa July 2019

I would like to invite you to an informative session about a potential two-week expedition to South Africa in summer 2019 to help with biodiversity surveys run by Operation Wallacea. The presentation will be given on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 6pm and is open to pupils in Year 11 who are applying to our Sixth Form and all Year 12 students, and it will especially appeal to pupils and student who are interested in biology, ecology and conservation.

For their first week in South Africa the students will be based in fenced camps either in Kruger National Park Reserve or Dinokeng Reserve, both of which are home to the iconic big game species of the African savannah. Students will be collecting data used by a South Africa NPO (not for profit organisation) to monitor the effect large herbivores such as elephants have on enclosed reserves and ensure that these reserves are monitored and evaluated so conservation goals are achieved.

During this week, they will learn bush training skills such as safe distances for viewing game, identifying tracks and how to use a GPS and compass for navigation. They will then take part in various surveys such as game transects by vehicle to monitor large mammal populations, bird point counts and elephant impact.

For the second week, the group will move to Sodwana Bay, which is in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here they can learn to dive to PADI Open Water level or, if they are already dive trained or wish to snorkel, complete an Indian Ocean reef ecology course.

It is also possible to use the expedition to gain extra UCAS points by doing an EPQ or extended essay project, and the expedition covers key aspects of biology and geography syllabuses. In addition, if they are applying for UK universities then they automatically qualify by completing the expedition for a University Award that can be included on their UCAS form.

The Opwall expedition costs are significant, and as such Opwall can provide a meeting with one of their fundraising team. It would be our aim that if necessary, a large portion of the monies required could be fundraised. At the meeting, specific dates and cost will be discussed and explained.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form