



ABINGDON

From: Mr John Chapman – Abingdon School CCF

4 November 2011

Dear parents

**Abingdon School Diving Expedition
Dahab, Egypt
August 2012**

I have been making enquiries about a scuba diving expedition in the summer of 2012. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some early details of the trip and to gain your agreement in principle, and a deposit, should you decide that your son might participate. For the trip to be viable it will require a minimum of 15 boys to take part.

Scuba diving is a fantastic way for youngsters to develop life skills such as teamwork, communication, self-confidence and responsibility. Recreational divers always work in pairs when underwater, and the inability to speak forces divers to communicate in a new way by using only hand signals and body language. Divers must have confidence in their own non-verbal communication skills and underwater drills to enjoy the sport, and must take responsibility for both their own safety and that of their partner, known as their buddy. That said, I must stress that on this trip all cadets will be supervised directly by a qualified instructor at all times whilst underwater.

The chosen location for this expedition is Dahab in Egypt. Dahab is a quiet and relaxed resort, where the focus is very much on diving, approximately 1 hour north of Sharm-El-Sheik. Created around an old Bedouin settlement on the shores of the Red Sea, Dahab offers some of the best diving in the world directly from the beach, with plenty of opportunities to see marine life in crystal-clear warm water. The resort also offers opportunities to experience Egyptian culture, with a variety of traditional souks, cafes, restaurants and gift shops. Accommodation will be at the hotel Bedouin Moon, which is a modest (2/3*) hotel, featuring twin en-suite rooms.

The diving itself will be organised by 321DIVE, a British-run PADI dive school and the only UK run Schools Diving specialist. (Further information can be found at <http://www.321dive.co.uk/>) PADI (the Professional Association of Diving Instructors) is an internationally recognised and well-respected organisation, and the qualifications gained are recognised by virtually every recreational diving company around the world. This means that your son will be able to continue diving, should he wish to, for the rest of his life, with the qualification he gains.

Beginners will work towards the PADI Open Water qualification, which will qualify cadets to dive with a buddy, unsupervised, to a maximum depth of 18 metres. This course usually takes 4 days and includes basic theory lessons (classroom-based), swimming pool dives and 4 open water dives. Cadets who already possess this, or a similar, qualification will be offered the PADI Advanced Open Water course, which includes more theory and 4 open water dives from a range of options, depending on the diver's interests. This qualification recognises the diver as more experienced, and allows him to dive to 36 metres in a wider range of conditions. If your son is already beyond this stage in his diving career, please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to tailor a package to suit his needs.

I am intending to run the weeklong expedition from 19 until 26 August 2012, depending on flights. Although it is not possible to give an exact cost until I have an idea of numbers, but I envisage that it

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

will a maximum of £1350.00 per boy. This will include transfers in the UK and Egypt, flights, tourist visas, accommodation on a half- or full-board basis, lunch, and 5 days' diving (some of which will be recreational, on successful completion of the course), including kit hire and instruction. Should you and your son decide that he would like a place on this trip, and your son will be at least 13 years old by the start date of the trip, please register your interest by returning the slip below to me **no later than Tuesday 22 November 2011**.

At this time I am also asking for a deposit of £350.00 to secure a place. Shortly after the 22 November a go/no go decision will be made and you will be informed. (As mentioned earlier the minimum number of boys is 15). At this point deposits will not be returnable if the trip is going ahead, if not, your deposits will be returned in full. The balance will be required in two further payments; £500 will be added to your Lent bill at Christmas and the final instalment also of £500 will be added to the summer term bill issued in April.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman
john.chapman@abingdon.org.uk

To: J N Chapman, Abingdon School

From:

Pupils name:

House:

Tutor Group:

I would like my son to participate in the first Abingdon School Diving Expedition. I enclose a cheque made payable to "Abingdon School" for the some of Three Hundred and Fifty Pounds as deposit. I understand that once I have been informed of a place being allocated, and commitment made to 321Dive the sum of £350.00, from the initial deposit cannot be returned.

Signed (parent/guardian)

Date