



From: Mathew Dempsey

20 September 2019

Dear Parents,

### **Marine Biology Diving Expedition to Maldives**

I would like to invite your son to join a marine biology diving expedition to the Maldives. The purpose of the trip is to learn how to scuba dive or improve to a more advanced level while learning about the marine environment. We will be completing three dives each day while being accommodated on a large modern motor yacht. This trip is open to any student from the current 4th, 5th, Lower 6th and Upper 6th years.

#### **Provisional Dates**

Friday 17 – Saturday 25 July 2020 (Please note that these dates may change by one day depending on flight availability)

#### **Trip Outline**

The trip is organised by Oyster Diving who are experienced at running school diving trips. Having met at the airport we would fly to the Maldives before spending 7 nights on board Honors Legacy a modern, safe, luxury liveaboard motor yacht. An accompanying Dhoni dive boat would take us on 3 dives per day for 6 days. All meals, tea & coffee and water would be included. Boys would participate in a marine biology lecture series that would include a presentation by the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme. They would also complete a diving course. In July the plankton blooms around the Maldives attracting large marine species including Manta Rays and Whale Sharks making this a once in a life time experience to these majestic animals whose populations are in decline while learning about their ecology. This video from a similar trip run with another school give a good idea about what to expect: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeOipqpXfsY>

#### **Guide Price**

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

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563

Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

**£2877** – Including flights, accommodation, insurance, food, activities. Dive courses available: **PADI Open Water - £400**: For boys new to diving; this would include pool training in the school pool over the Easter holidays and completion dives in the Maldives. **PADI Advanced Open Water- £295**: For boys who are Open Water qualified. It is possible for boys new to diving to sign up to gain the Open Water and Advanced Open Water by the end of the trip; this is encouraged so that they can access the deeper dive sites with a higher chance of observing larger marine species including Manta Rays. **PADI Rescue Diver and EFR - £395**: For boys who are Advanced Open Water qualified. Speciality courses are available on request.

#### Signing up

As this trip is limited and costed to 15 participants it will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like your son to participate please complete the form below before Sunday 29 September 2019 .

The cost of the trip will be added to the school bills as follows: December bill: £1438.50 plus the cost of the diving courses selected. April bill: £1438.50.

Please note that by completing the attached (electronic) consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip. Completing the form secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The balance of payment being applied to your school bill is a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

Link to sign up form: <https://forms.gle/GKZkU7t7Whwk3Pa58>

Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions about this expedition or if it is a specific diving question Mark at <https://www.oysterdiving.com/> 01273 420790.

Yours sincerely

**Mathew Dempsey**  
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