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September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

### **World Challenge Expedition – Uganda 2014**

Welcome to Sackville, I'm writing to offer you an amazing opportunity for the current year 12 students.

World Challenge have been running expeditions for over 20 years and last summer they had over 340 groups with over 5,000 students on expedition. World Challenge expeditions are all about education through experience and challenge. An independent study by the United Learning Trust found that the UK's key employers voted World Challenge by name as the fourth most important activity undertaken at school, above activities such as Young Enterprise and sporting events. These organisations rated leadership, teamwork, self-motivation, time management, planning, flexibility, communication, confidence, consideration of others and the ability to learn as being the key determinants in the selection of employees, all of which are skills World Challenge brings out in its challengers.

I have run nine World Challenge expeditions with the school and the feedback from students who have taken part has been incredible, many have called it a life changing experience and several have found that it has given them direction and focus towards their futures. I have asked some of the students who took part in previous expeditions what they thought they have gained from the experience. They came up with the following list of skills gained: independence, maturity, determination, team work, listening to others, self reliance, personal responsibility, decision making, money management, commitment, resilience, perseverance, self confidence, problem solving, leadership, the ability to organise themselves and to organise groups of other people and of course the chance to make a group of close friends. They also commented on what a fantastic help it was when applying for university places. As you can see the students who take part in World Challenge can gain a vast amount from it far beyond the cultural experience of visiting Uganda and all it has to offer.

The expedition itself is at least 28 days in the country and is split into four phases. The acclimatisation trek is a two/three day trek or a number of one day treks to prepare for working and trekking in the climate as well as the necessary organisation for trekking. In Uganda this will be a trek through the rural communities at the base of Mount Elgon. The project part of the expedition is five days working in a local school or orphanage usually decorating, repairing play equipment or buildings, playing games, teaching, etc. The main trek is a five day challenging trek, in Uganda this





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will be trekking up Mount Elgon. The summit of Mount Elgon at 4,321m is Uganda's second highest mountain. The forested terrain on the slopes and open moor land provide some stunning views as you ascend. The culmination of this is the bare boulder-strewn multi-peaked crater, including the highest point, Wagagai Peak. The rest and relaxation phase is a number of days resting, relaxing, buying souvenirs. The team can also choose to relax by visiting Murchison Falls National Park where there are opportunities for game drives as well as seeing the falls themselves. They could also visit Sipi Falls, located at Mount Elgon, which are beautifully maintained and teams could spend a day or two camping by the waterfalls and exploring the surrounding area and the expedition could finish off by visiting the equator and visiting Ngambe Island chimpanzee sanctuary.

When on expedition we have a leader from World Challenge with the team to help and to make sure they are safe but the day to day decisions and running of the trip is done by the team itself. World Challenge has a comprehensive safety back up system including the team carrying a EPIRB positioning beacon, which can communicate via satellite with RAF Kinloss. The team carries a sat phone, has possible use of International SOS if required. A comprehensive medical kit will also be carried with the team and all the adult leaders on the trip have first aid qualifications.

The expedition cost will be £3,745. At first glance this is a substantial amount of money but it includes all flights, food, accommodation and transport for the trip. A lot of the cost of the expedition is the comprehensive insurance and safety back up as outlined earlier. The only things not included are personal kit (tents are included in the cost), vaccinations, R&R costs (dependant on team choices of R&R activities) and personal spending money. Part of the World Challenge experience is for the challengers to raise the money themselves through fund raising and Saturday jobs. From previous expeditions individual students have raised £1,000 from a sponsored swim, £1,500 from a sponsored cycle and several hundred pounds from organising gigs and car boot sales. Teams from other schools have also done sponsored parachute jumps, and even had corporate sponsors. World Challenge also organises fun runs and an abseiling event as opportunities to raise fund and have lots of advice on money management. Although it is quite a lot of money every past challenger I've taken away has said that the trip is easily value for money when taking into account the skills learnt and the life changing experiences had.

Thank you for reading all this information, if you have any further questions please come and see me or email me on [pwilcox@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:pwilcox@wsgfl.org.uk). Also feel free to speak to previous challengers who have been on the trip and ask them any questions about their experiences.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Wilcox  
**World Challenge Coordinator**

