



## Year 10 Rotorua Camp December 2020 - Parent letter No 1.

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

Last week I met with all the Y10 students to start planning for the end of year camp. The camp dates are:

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Please find below information and organisation details for the 2020 camp. The camp will be based at the Blue Lakes Top 10 camping ground in Rotorua. Activities will take place in and around the area.

The camp is based around the objectives of **Team Work, Leadership and Communication – T.L.C.** Each of the activities (White water rafting, Mountain Biking, Tramping, problem solving etc) are designed to develop the student's use these skills and reward those who show great T.L.C. The students will be split into Group A and B. This will be done at school in the weeks leading up to camp.

	<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	White Water rafting – Kaituna River Set up camp Base camp	Lake Tarawera tramp to Hot Water Beach Set up outcamp
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	Mountain Biking & The Great Aquinas Challenge	Return boat trip: Hot Water Beach to The Landing
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	Lake Tarawera tramp to Hot Water Beach Set up outcamp	Mountain Biking & The Great Aquinas Challenge
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	Return boat trip: Hot Water Beach to The Landing Bus to Aquinas College	White Water rafting – Kaituna River Bus to Aquinas College

Both groups will complete the same activities over the four days and I am sure the students will find the activities exciting yet a challenging experience.

Mr Dalton, Ms Jacq Burrell (Y10 Dean) and myself see this as an extremely valuable experience. However, if a student is unable to attend camp you will need to schedule a meeting with yourselves, your son/daughter and Mrs Burrell to discuss this. It is our hope that any issues could be addressed, and support provided to enable every student to attend. The best time for this is the two weeks after junior exams have finished. Those students not attending camp will be required to attend normal school for the four days where an alternative programme will be organised.

There is some inherent risk associated with these types of activities. Every effort will be made to manage those risks during this EOTC Activity. In planning this trip staff have followed the current best practice procedures according to the Aquinas College EOTC Guidelines. In addition, the Mountain Biking, Tarawera Boat trip and Rafting activities are run by qualified guides. Students can assist this by ensuring that they are prepared correctly, follow instructions and support staff and other students on the activity.

I have attached to this letter a description of each activity as well as a gear list to help start the organisation at home.

**Payment**

The approximate cost of the camp is \$250. I will confirm this to you in the next couple of weeks. Please make contact with Mrs Mary Walton in the school office to discuss any concerns you may have regarding payment as financial assistance may be available. The final date for payment will be **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**.

If you have any questions about the camp please contact myself at the College on 543 2400 ext 244 or [rwatson@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:rwatson@aquinas.school.nz)

A copy of this letter is also on the school website [www.aquinas.school.nz](http://www.aquinas.school.nz)

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Watson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Watson  
Year 10 Camp co-ordinator.

## *Details of the activities*

### *Mountain Biking*

The Mountain Biking activity will take place in the Whakarewarewa Forest on the southern outskirts of Rotorua which contains some of the best Mountain Biking tracks in New Zealand. Students will be divided into groups based on their level of experience and spend approximately 2 ½ hours discovering the tracks. Each group will be accompanied by a guide. See <http://www.planetbike.co.nz/>

### *White Water Rafting*

The Kaituna river flows through an extremely steep and narrow canyon, with 14 awesome drops, including two waterfalls and some great rapids. They will experience possibly the world's highest commercially rafted waterfall at 6-7 metres. This will be a unique and amazing experience for all. Please remember that a separate consent form needs to be completed for this activity. Check out their website [www.rotorua-rafting.co.nz](http://www.rotorua-rafting.co.nz)

### *The Great Aquinas Challenge*

This involves each group of eight students competing against other groups for the much sought after prize of being crowned The Great Aquinas Challenge champions for 2018. The actual tasks remain a secret until the day but it's fair to say that students will be getting wet and muddy and the group that displays the best teamwork will be very competitive.

### *Tramping*

Students will walk the newly opened Tarawera trail. This is a 15km tramp starting near the Buried Village to Hot Water beach on Lake Tarawera. At Hot Water beach students will set up their tents and be responsible for cooking their own dinner. Cookers and cooking equipment is supplied to each group. The return trip to The Landing is by boat. Check out <http://www.totallytarawera.com/>

## *Aquinas College Year 10 Camp Gear List*

It is **ESSENTIAL** that each student has all the items on this list.

### **Camping (for both Blue Lake Holiday park and Hot water Beach)**

- Sleeping bag                      preferably reasonably compact
- Sleeping mat                      closed cell foam mat or therm-a-rest
- Tent                                      This is to be shared with 2 – 3 students  
( **No large family camping tents** the tent sites are not big enough and 10 children in one tent makes for a very sleepless night!!)

### **Clothes**

- Togs and towel.
- Activity clothes                      1 x Fleece top  
    2 x thermal Bottoms ( Long johns)  
    2 x thermal Tops  
    Waterproof raincoat  
    Shorts (light & easy drying)  
    2 x pair woollen socks
- Sturdy footwear                      strong & broken in with good grip (to get wet)
- Around camp                              clothes should be warm eg fleece or woollen pants & top,  
    slip-on shoes, warm socks, puffer jackets
- All students to bring a container of home baking

### **Outcamp**

- Tramping pack. This needs to be at least 65 litres.
- Warm thermal clothing ( No cotton )
- Each group will need to organise their own food for outcamp. Please note the cooking facilities will be limited. The students will have time to organise this with their group at school prior to the camp.

### **Other**

- Sunscreen & cap
- Hat & gloves
- Torch - with spare batteries
- Water bottle
- Daypack
- Toiletries - essential items only
- Utensils - mug, plate, bowl, knife, fork, spoon
- Snack foods - Muesli bars, scroggin, only.
- Large Plastic bag for wet clothes

### **First day of camp.**

- All students to bring a packed lunch for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November including water bottles

Please note that NO Energy drinks are allowed on the camp. In the past students have been drinking them at night and therefore it makes the task of getting them to bed and asleep challenging.