



23 November 2011

Dear Parents and Students in Year 10

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC), or Outdoor Education, is widely recognized as having significant benefits for young people. As such, schools throughout the world have developed opportunities for their young people to be challenged in ways that they would not be whilst in the traditional classroom.

Renaissance College supports this philosophy in the interest of the holistic development of each student, and as such has established a valuable EOTC program, beginning in the PYP and extending through the MYP. The Year 10 program will take place between **Monday 5th March - Friday 9th March 2012**. Students will develop the various attributes of the IB learner profile and be guided towards adulthood by developing key life skills. As such it is expected that all Year 10 students attend as part of the college curriculum and, as in previous years, students have a choice of a number of EOTC initiatives. Outlined in this letter is a guide to the learning outcomes, program overview and the costs of the year 10 initiatives.

#### **INFORMATION SESSION:**

Parents are invited to an **Parent Information Session providing an Overview of Year 10 EOTC programs**. This will be held on **MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER from 7pm in the PAC** (Performing Arts Centre) at RCHK. RCHK and APA staff will be present at this meeting.

The aims of this meeting are:

- to outline the importance of EOTC to the development of our students
- to outline the plans for the Year 10 students 5-9 March 2012
- re-introduce Asia Pacific Adventure the company who will be responsible for the delivery of the program
- answer parent's questions and concerns

Further, more specific information sessions will be conducted for each of the initiatives. Students **must** attend the sessions relevant to their expedition to ensure they receive the necessary information and answers to any questions they may have.

#### **SELECTION OF PROGRAM and DEPOSIT:**

Students are expected to **choose a program** that they are interested in **and pay a deposit of \$3,000 before Friday 9 December**. The deposits for mainland China / Thailand / Malaysia programs are NON-REFUNDABLE due to the need to confirm flight bookings for those trips.

Cheques need to be made out to "**Renaissance College**" and submitted to Ms Joko Chan in S408, along with the students name and their choice of trip.

PLEASE NOTE: There are minimum and maximum number limitations on overseas trips. Numbers are taken on a 'first in' basis. We will keep students updated in this regard.

A further deposit of \$3,000 will be payable by Tuesday 10 January 2012 for overseas trips, with final payments made for ALL initiatives by Monday 6 February 2012.

Costs **do not include visa fees, immunisations**, etc. It is expected parents / students will determine their individual requirements and take necessary action.

**PROGRAM AIMS:**

The Year 10 experience is designed to meet the following aims;

- Students will be able to select a program which suits their EOTC development
- To accept challenges, risk-taking, decision making & thinking laterally
- To emphasize the MYP's Areas of Interaction and Learner Profile in an environment outside the classroom
- To create personal independence and self sufficiency including planning and preparation of part of their groups expedition
- To stimulate resilience during outdoor expeditions and build on critical thinking skills
- To provide leadership opportunities and explore curriculum links in the outdoors
- To develop greater self-awareness and responsibility towards themselves, others and the environment.

**PROGRAM OUTLINE:**

All year 10 students are expected to participate in the EOTC curriculum . They will have the option to choose one of the of the five activities outlined below;

LOCATION	OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES	APPROXIMATE COSTS
Year 10 Option 1  Tiger Leaping Gorge, Lijang, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trekking through the amazing Tiger Leaping Gorge</li> <li>▪ The thrill of a tyrolean and abseil in a 30 metre canyon</li> <li>▪ Spending time with primary children during a school exchange</li> <li>▪ Hiking through local villages</li> </ul>	\$10,000+ Air transport
Year 10 Option 2  Yangshuo, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experiencing the beauty of Yangshuo's emerald rice paddies, limestone karst peaks, and picturesque villages</li> <li>▪ Water Caving experience</li> <li>▪ Learning the skill of Chinese painting with a local artist</li> <li>▪ Contributing to primary school children in a rural school through a meaningful multi-day school exchange program</li> <li>▪ Bamboo rafting</li> <li>▪ Adventure challenge (incl. orienteering, water-based / high-element challenges, local trivia)</li> </ul>	\$10,000+ Air transport

LOCATION	OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES	APPROXIMATE COSTS
Year 10 Option 3  River Kwai, Kanchanaburi, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High-element challenges</li> <li>▪ Building a rope bridge</li> <li>▪ Participating in Thai Cooking</li> <li>▪ Hiking the infamous Hellfire Pass (on the Death Railway).</li> <li>▪ Spending time with primary children during a school exchange</li> <li>▪ Kayak safety and river hydrology</li> <li>▪ Full day kayak expedition down the River Kwai</li> <li>▪ Exploring local Mon village</li> </ul>	\$8,200+ Air transport
Year 10 Option 4  Juara, Tioman Island, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trekking and gorging through the amazing Malaysian jungle canopy</li> <li>▪ Learn to scuba PADI course in one of the worlds most renowned marine parks.</li> <li>▪ Kayak, boogie board and snorkel during the aquatic based adventure.</li> <li>▪ Visit the Juara turtle project.</li> </ul> <p>** This expedition will be conducted by RCHK staff with the assistance of a local organisation, Little Planet **</p>	\$8,500+ Air transport
Year 10 Option 5  Sai Kung Country Park, Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor skills sessions including navigation/map skills</li> <li>• Survival challenge</li> <li>• Students will plan and undertake a self-sufficient hiking and kayaking expedition around Sai Kung Country Park.</li> </ul>	\$ 4 , 9 0 0

#### SERVICE PROVIDER:

Asia Pacific Adventure have industry-leading standards of staff training and safety, and being Hong Kong based have an intimate understanding of the environment and the Hong Kong students. More information can be found at [www.asiapacificadventure.com/index.php](http://www.asiapacificadventure.com/index.php)

We are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our students and to continue the EOTC program that we hope will become a highlight of students' time at Renaissance College. If you would like any further information about the EOTC initiatives or if you have any concerns or enquiries about the proposed trips, please contact me at the College.

Regards

Troy Braund  
EOTC Co-ordinator  
[tbraund@rchk.edu.hk](mailto:tbraund@rchk.edu.hk)