

## 1<sup>ST</sup> XI CRICKET TOUR TO DUBAI & UAE FEB 2020

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to cricket at LRGS over the years and for your continued support. Last season was a hugely impressive one across all the year groups, climaxing in a number of age group Lancashire Cup finals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI reaching the F15 Final and of course the 1<sup>st</sup> XI's success in the RGS Festival up on the Douthwaite – the first time we have won it outright in the schools' history.

Winning the RGS Trophy was a fitting end to Mr Ledward's time in charge of cricket at LRGS and for those present, the glorious weather, the quality of the out grounds we used and the standard of cricket played serves as a superb reminder and lasting testament to the hard work, devotion and energy Ian has committed to school cricket over the last decade.

As part of the transition and handover, Ian and I have talked about how to continue developing the cricket further at LRGS and we both felt that whilst the U16 tours to Barbados have been a huge success, it is time for a change. We did feel that for some students the chance to tour at U16 level was perhaps the pinnacle of their school cricket and somewhat surprisingly we found that some boys subsequently dropped off or stopped playing cricket all together once they returned from the tour and didn't represent any Senior sides once they reached the Sixth Form.

Therefore I have decided to tour to Dubai and the UAE with a 1<sup>st</sup> XI consisting of boys in the current Year 11 and L6th (they will be L6th and U6th in 2019-20) in the February of 2020. We would then operate a two year rolling tour plan for students in the Sixth Form from 2020 onwards. This would allow every student to get the opportunity to tour whilst studying in the Sixth Form at LRGS. Future possible destinations could include Sri Lanka, South Africa and the West Indies and we would ultimately like to move towards touring with both a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

**It is with this in mind that I am writing to you to inform you that your son has been selected in our initial squad of 18 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricketers.** At the end of the 2019 cricket season the touring squad will be trimmed to 14/15 players and they will be accompanied by two Staff and also hopefully a number of parents wishing to watch and support the boys on tour in Dubai and the UAE. Selection will be based on both performance and commitment to school cricket in both training and in fixtures, whilst making sure we maintain a sensible balance to the team. Whilst general behavior in lessons and around school will not be a key indicator for selection, it will certainly be considered if we find ourselves having to make some very tight decisions on who makes up the final touring party.

Touring in February provides a unique opportunity to use the time as both a pre-season tour and invaluable preparation for the English summer season, whilst providing a fantastic opportunity for students to play competitive cricket across various formats at some truly world class facilities. Touring over the February half term also minimizes any disruption to the boys' academic studies as very little time off school is required and on return the boys have months ahead to prepare and revise for their exams. Unfortunately the current U15's are not invited to tour as their Year 11 GCSE mock exams would be the first week back after the February half term and Mr Chambers, the Deputy Head for Curriculum, has stated that unfortunately this tour is not an option for this particular age group.

The itinerary is included and I am sure you will agree it looks an exciting blend of cricket - 5 matches featuring day/night cricket, 40/50 over matches and T20 games, alongside some superb sightseeing and cultural opportunities. The students will also get the chance to train at the ICC headquarters and will be accommodated in 4\* and 5\* hotels throughout their stay. Perhaps just as importantly, is that I have asked the tour company (Sporta - based in the UAE and the MCC chosen cricket tour partner) to include all of the boys meals for the tour in the overall price. This means

that students will only need limited, if any, spending money once they touch down in Dubai, as meals and excursions will all be covered. Providing the fundraising and sponsorship goes according to plan, then all the Gray Nicholls kit will be paid for and distributed to the players, prior to departure and at no further cost to you as a parent.

The cost of the tour will be £2200 per pupil and will be managed as a series of payments through the schools' Wisepay system. At this stage all that we ask is for a deposit of £200 be paid through Wisepay and into the **DUBAI & UAE CRICKET TOUR ACCOUNT 2020** and the **REPLY SLIP** below completed, along with the completed **MEDICAL FORM** and a photocopy of your sons current **PASSPORT** and returned in the **ENCLOSED ENVELOPE** before **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November**. The remaining payments will commence in February 2019 and will consist of 8 further monthly payments of £250.

As always, when we embark on tours of this magnitude we like to make families aware that should they be facing any financial hardship and would like to explore avenues for financial assistance then please contact Jenny Cornell in the Development Office to discuss the Opportunities Fund, the Lune Scholarship and a possible Sixth Form Bursary.

Should your son not be selected to tour then obviously there will be a full refund made to you that includes the deposit. Sporta is fully ATOL protected and the trip is fully insured through the school insurance policy (available to view on the school website) however in the highly unlikely event the tour is cancelled due to foreign office advice, political unrest or financial insolvency on the part of the tour operator then you may be liable for any costs we are unable to claim back from the insurance company or the tour operator.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further details or to discuss the tour in general and if you are able to get involved in any fundraising initiatives or you would be willing to sponsor any items of clothing/baggage it would be great to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Guy Mason**

**Head of LRGS Cricket**

Included: Itinerary, Medical Form, Reply slip, Reply envelope + label



Pupil name \_\_\_\_\_

Form \_\_\_\_\_

- Please **DO / DO NOT\*** consider my son for selection for the Dubai Cricket Tour in 2020.
- **I HAVE / HAVE NOT\*** made the £200 deposit payment through WISEPAY into the Dubai & UAE Cricket Tour Account 2020.

\*delete as appropriate

We would be able to offer some sort of financial sponsorship towards kit or baggage  (Please tick if you can help)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_