



HILL HOUSE SCHOOL

JL/mr

12 July 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Hill House Swim Squad

The Hill House Swim Squad will be holding trials on Thursday 5 September at 8.00am at Rossington Swimming Pool. There are 30 places in the Swim Squad and it is open to pupils in Year 3 to Year 8. These trials should be attended by all pupils who wish to join the squad including those who were members last year.

Swim Squad will no longer be included in the activities brochure as it is part of the sporting teams' provision offered by the school. **If you would like your child to be considered for the squad you must reply to this letter electronically to register your interest. This signs your child up for the trial.** To ensure that everybody has a fair chance of becoming part of the squad previous members are still required to attend the trial.

Pupils need to be dropped off at 7.50am ready for an 8.00am start. Parents are welcome to stay and watch from the viewing gallery. A school minibus will take the pupils back to school ready for their first lesson.

I am incredibly proud of how the squad has grown over the years into a position where the school is recognised on the local and national circuit. As such entry to the squad is based solely on swimming ability. Even if a pupil has not raced competitively before I do encourage pupils to come and have a go.

Pupils require swimwear (no board shorts or two piece swim suits); a towel and goggles. Swim wear needs to be a plain navy blue or black colour. A swimming cap is not necessary for training but will be for galas and events if they represent the school. Pupils are required to swim front crawl (freestyle) and a stroke of their choice (backstroke, breaststroke or butterfly). At the trials all pupils will be timed for 25 metres front crawl and the times required (same for both boys and girls) are:

Year 3 – less than 35 seconds

Year 4 – less than 30 seconds

Year 5/6 – less than 25 seconds

Year 7/8 – less than 20 seconds

There will be starting blocks available but pupils can start in the water. Please do not let this deter your child as many pupils have joined the squad having never used the blocks before and are now competent divers.

Please note that obtaining the required time at the trial does not constitute automatic selection for the squad. After the trials pupils will be informed by the end of the school day whether they have been successful or not. If a pupil has not been successful they are welcome to try again at the start of the next term. Pupils who are selected for the Swim Squad must attend the trials at the start of each term to keep their place.

It is important to note that these are not swimming lessons and the squad is for pupils who want to race competitively. The squad compete against other independent schools and in national competitions. Pupils who are interested in combining swimming and running are signposted towards Yorkshire Biathle Club and Pentathlon GB events. This link has seen Swim Squad pupils compete in the British Schools Biathlon Championships in London and also represent Great Britain in the European and World Biathle Championships.

If you have any questions please email parents@hillhouse.doncaster.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Lawrie
Swim Squad Co-ordinator