

Dear cyclist,

## Yorkshire Dales 2017

The KES senior cycle tour 2017 promises to be a particularly scenic perambulation. It is based around the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway, a clockwise circuit of the national park, and encompasses some of the wildest, most spectacular landscapes in the British Isles plus – as an added attraction - some of the climbs used in the 2014 edition of the Tour de France. Some of the hills here are as steep as those we met in Wales 2016, but the daily mileages are shorter.

The projected itinerary is as follows:

### **Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> – 30 miles, 686m of climbing**

Leave KES at 9.00 a.m. to arrive at Otley around midday. Initially we climb northwards past the ruins of Barden Tower into Wharfedale then we turn west to Malham.

### **Monday August 14<sup>th</sup> – 54 miles, 1439m**

Unapologetically, I've planned this day's route to see as much as possible of the Settle to Carlisle railway line. A very steep climb to Malham Tarn within the first mile should test how well we've digested breakfast, then after some short, sharp undulations we head north on a relatively easy road alongside the railway to the magnificent Ribbleshead Viaduct. Then down via Ingleton, up and then down to Dent, whence we climb very steeply up to the railway line again and follow its course via Garsdale Head and Outhgill finishing with an easy run into Kirkby Stephen.

### **Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup> – 58 miles, 1768m**

This is the toughest day but we can leave our panniers at the hotel as we're doing a loop. We climb to Tan Hill where we will find the highest pub in Britain! Then down into Swaledale, up over Grinton Moor (a TdF climb), into Wensleydale, over The Buttertubs (still on the TdF route) then back to Kirkby Stephen.

### **Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> – 50 miles, 1348m**

We start by going up Tan Hill again! We take a different road from the top, though, heading for Arkengarthdale. Thereafter a really tough climb northwards to the Stang Forest. This is followed by a very steep (and long) descent and finally an undulating ride to Richmond.

### **Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> – 57 miles, 1133m**

A longish drag out of Richmond through the army base at Catterick then a fast descent to Leyburn. We cross the River Ure and then have a very long but gentle climb through Coverdale (with a few sharp bits) before the dangerously steep descent of the notorious Park Rash. We then rejoin some of Sunday's route and head gently back through Wharfedale to Otley where our transport will meet us in late afternoon. Back at school by 8.00 pm.

The route looks suitable for any boy in the Fourths and above and any parent who is reasonably fit. But first-timers beware: the terrain is far harder than anything you will have encountered on a junior tour! Any sort of decent bike will do as long as it has some low gears, good brakes and is capable of carrying your luggage. Panniers and waterproofs can be provided; contact me soon about this. Accommodation is likely to be in hotels and B&Bs, with breakfast and evening meals provided. You will be expected to buy your own lunch from shops and cafés along the route; £5 a day would suffice.

The cost of the tour is £450 per rider. If you wish to reserve your place on this tour, please return the form below and a deposit of £100 by Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>. The balance of £350 will be payable by Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. Log onto your School Gateway account and follow the instructions to make the payment online. When using School Gateway we would prefer it if you used a debit card as this is the most cost effective way for the school. Alternatively you could send a cheque in with your son made payable to "KES Trips". The back of the cheque should state your son's name, form and "Dales17". Please do not pay by bank transfer.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Phillips  
September 2016

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I would like to book a place on the Yorkshire Dales Cycle Tour in August 2017.

Boy's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy's Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_