



15 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Years 10 & 12 Finland Cross Country Skiing Expedition 25 to 31 March 2026**

We are excited to provide you with details of an opportunity that we have been planning with our partners in Finland for next year.

We have been working with Adventure Apes for a number of years and our students have had the most incredible adventures and learning experiences in Finland.

Their approach to outdoor learning, adventure and leadership is very much aligned with our school's vision and this expedition is a chance for our students to collaborate and contribute to a team that will experience the challenge of a wilderness expedition in pristine wilderness on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

Cross Country Skiing is incredibly popular in Finland; it is a sport that is easy for beginners to master. Please note that a preliminary online course is highly recommended for this camp to ensure students are prepared for the expedition. It should begin about 2 months prior to the camp. It is mostly self-studying but also includes 4 live webinars.

The planned programme takes place from 25 to 31 March 2026.

Using sleds, and towing all equipment, students will spend two days training and preparing for the expedition, three days in the wilds skiing cross country and over frozen lakes. It is not cross-country skiing on tracks but skiing with skin-based skis off road. Sometimes we change to snowshoes when the terrain is too difficult to ski.

Dates are inclusive of travel:

Wednesday 25 March to Tuesday 31 March 2026.

The indicative cost of the trip at this stage is £1798.00. However, the final cost will be calculated once the school has confirmed number of participants and the bookings have been confirmed with our travel intermediary.

This visit takes place outside the normal school curriculum and mostly outside of curriculum time, it is classed as an optional activity, and participation is dependent on payment being received.

Please note that:

- This trip is not a compulsory part of your child's education.
- In accordance with the Department for Education's guidance on charging for school activities, the full cost of this trip must be met by parents/carers.

- If insufficient contributions are received, the school may be unable to proceed with the visit.

Payment contributions will be taken by instalment and individual payment plans can be discussed. Please message [trips@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:trips@reading-school.co.uk) to discuss further.

Those in receipt of Pupil Premium are offered support through the Reading Promise.

### **Visas:**

Please note that your son will have to be in the possession of an EHIC/GHIC Card and a Passport valid for the proposed duration of the stay and photocopies of these will need to be sent when requested.

Please note that parents are also responsible for ensuring a student's eligibility to travel: any additional VISA required will have to be arranged by parents at your own cost. Since the pandemic and Brexit there have been some changes to international travel rules.

There is considerable uncertainty in relation to visa arrangements to the Schengen area prior to the introduction of ETIAS in 2026. Ensuring that your son has all the relevant paperwork and the visa's required for entry remains a parental responsibility. As such you should budget accordingly for any associated costs.

In the event of entry being refused to a Schengen country, you would be required to make immediate arrangements for the collection of your son and would not be eligible for any refund.

We are more than happy to provide a visa letter in support of any application, however Reading School staff are unable to offer advice on visa requirements.

### **Travel Insurance:**

Reading School's travel insurance covers all activities taking place during the trip, but does not protect against cancellation due to your son's illness, covid status or other eventualities. Therefore, we recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance to mitigate this risk as refunds cannot be provided.

Under the Education Reform Act, the costs of the visit must be met by voluntary contributions. The visit can only take place if the parents of all participating pupils are prepared voluntarily to meet the full cost. There is no obligation to pay the voluntary contributions, but we must make it clear the trip will not take place if parents are reluctant to support it as there are no other funds available to finance the trip.

If your son is in receipt of Pupil Premium, financial support may be available: please check details of the Reading Promise on the school website and submit any claims using the associated form.

Cases of financial hardship will be dealt with sympathetically and confidentially by the school. Please contact me if there are any concerns of this nature.

There are certain precautions we must take before taking your child on the proposed visit. In respect of Health & Safety regulations and insurance, we require the assurance of yourself and your child that

the rules of behaviour set out in the Code of Conduct for Educational Visits will be adhered to both before and during the visit.

You will appreciate that the school has no control over the tour operators, airlines, hotels and other organisations involved. By reserving a place on the trip you and your son accept that the School has no responsibility for the default of the tour operators or other organisations and that in the event of an Act of God or any other circumstance whether involving health and safety, security, behaviour or otherwise, the School can in its discretion curtail, cancel or revise the tour at any time without recompense.

If you would like your child to take part in this trip, please complete the below expression of interest form by no later than Sunday 2 November. The deadline for deposits will be by Friday 7 November 2025.

<https://forms.office.com/e/E2aVfw8eb4>

Please get in touch if you have any queries regarding the trip.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DT', is positioned above the printed name and title.

David Tridgell  
Director of Character