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Headmaster: Chris Evans

## Year 7 Belonging Week 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to confirm details of the Year 7 'Boys That Bond': house activities and curriculum enrichment week that will take place from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and will involve all students in Year 7 for five days of exciting and enriching activities.

This exciting program has been carefully designed to offer a variety of activities that build on the success of the Elective program. The week will culminate in a special "Festival of Belonging" event on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, where Year 7 students will camp together on the school field. Throughout the day, they will take part in a range of activities, working within their houses and collaborating with students from other houses. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to bond, develop new friendships, and celebrate their sense of belonging.

### Planned Schedule

- **Oakwood Outdoor Youth Challenge:** Students will take part in collaborative activities such as high ropes, archery, bouldering, and other team-based tasks. Each student will attend on one of the days (Monday or Tuesday).
- **Creative Collaborations:** Students will take part in a creative project day, which will include music, drama, art, design and street dance. Each student will attend on one of the days (Monday or Tuesday).
- **Science Museum Trip:** Students will travel to the Science Museum in London, where they will explore and investigate scientific topics, extending their classroom learning through hands-on experiences. Every student will attend on Wednesday.
- **Camping & Team Building:** On Thursday, students will participate in team based collaborative challenges during the day. They will then stay in bell tents overnight on the front field and enjoy dinner with each other. Staff will supervise the overnight stay, with students grouped in tents of 4-6 students.
- **House Cricket Tournament:** On the final day, students will take part in a house cricket competition, where they will apply their teamwork and collaborative skills learned throughout the week.

### **Next steps**

The costs of this programme are currently being finalised but the approximate cost is £135 per child.

Payment links will be shared via Evolve in the coming weeks. Payment can either be made in full, or by instalment (payment instalment deadlines will be shared when the payment links are issued).

### **Contributions and Financial Assistance**

Under the Education Reform Act, the cost of this trip is covered by voluntary contributions. While contributions are voluntary, the trip will only go ahead if the full cost is covered through these contributions. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, we ask that you only pay the deposit, with the remainder of the trip cost being covered by the school's Pupil Premium funds. We are committed to ensuring all students can participate, so if you have any concerns regarding the financial aspect of the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We will handle any inquiries confidentially and sympathetically.

### **Health & Safety**

As part of our Health & Safety procedures, we ask that both you and your child review the school's Code of Conduct for Educational Visits and ensure adherence during the trip.

Please note that while we will do everything possible to ensure the trip runs smoothly, the school cannot control the actions of third-party organisations. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g., health or safety issues, or "Acts of God"), the school reserves the right to cancel or revise the trip at any time without compensation.

The Code of Conduct for Educational Visits will be shared shortly, and it must be followed both before and during the trip.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the week, please contact Miss Katie Rosser-Evans ([krosser-evans@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:krosser-evans@reading-school.co.uk)), who will be responsible for leading Belonging Week for the year 7 cohort.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr David Tridgell**  
**Educational Visits Coordinator**