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Educational Visits Coordinator

Year 8 Belonging Week 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are excited to provide you with details of 'The Value of Character' residential program that is the key component of Belonging Week for Year 8 students. The week is divided into two parts: a three-day residential trip and two days of collaborative activities held on the school site.

Residential Trip (3 days & 2 nights) 18 to 20 May
On Site Activities 21 and 22 May

All students in Year 8 will have the opportunity to take part in a 3-day residential experience. Many of your children will not have participated in a residential of this nature at either primary school or since they joined Reading School. This week will equip students as they look ahead to Year 9 and consider the importance of accountability and collaboration.

We plan to take students to one of two residential locations: Cumulus Outdoor or Rock UK Summit Centre. Each residential location has been thoughtfully chosen to provide a carefully curated program of activities tailored to offer the best experiences for our students. All centres are dedicated to inspiring students to step beyond their comfort zones, work collaboratively, build vital teambuilding skills, and forge new friendships along the way. Students will be invited to consider the following locations:

Cumulus Outdoor
Approximate Cost: £310

Situated in Dorset, students will enjoy a variety of exciting and engaging experiences, including kayaking, paddleboarding, high ropes, air rifles, archery, axe-throwing, and our water park. These activities are designed to challenge them, build confidence, and encourage teamwork in a supportive environment. School Residential and Adventure Activities in Dorset | Cumulus

Rock UK Summit Centre
Approximate Cost: £340

Set on the edge of the stunning Brecon Beacons, students will enjoy a program of exciting activities based around the Summit Centre. With outdoor adventures like bushcraft, climbing, caving, canoeing, kayaking, and abseiling, Students will have the opportunity to take on exciting challenges and develop self-confidence. Summit Centre - Rock UK

The following is also included for each centre:

- All meals are provided, except for a packed lunch required on day 1
- Return coach travel
- Excursions, evening activities, entrance fees and guides

There will be a minimum of 6 adults accompanying each group led by an experienced trip leader.

Thursday 21 & Friday 22 May (no cost)

These two days see forms come back together to utilise the skills they have learned on their recent adventures. Students should expect to be on site for the normal school hours 0820-1525.

Thursday: Various team challenges involving physical and cerebral activities

Friday: House cricket

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 pay the deposit only, 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 Mr Tom Evans directly. We will handle any enquiries confidentially and sympathetically.

Please note that we both aspire for, and expect EVERY child to attend a trip.

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.

Next Steps

Costs for each location are currently being finalised but please note the approximate cost given next to each of the 2 visits options for guidance. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to review the available centres detailed above and discuss the options with your child.

Please ensure that you complete the Microsoft form below stating your child's order of preference for each trip as soon as you are able with the final deadline being Friday 13th February.

[Year 8 Belonging Week 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Places will be confirmed shortly afterwards, with deposit payments due by Friday, 27 February 2026.

While we aim to allocate places based on the preference of residential location, this may not always be possible and will depend on demand. Please support your child in getting excited for whichever trip they get the opportunity to take part in.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the week, please contact Mr C Betteridge (cbetteridge@reading-school.co.uk), who will be responsible for leading Belonging Week for the year 8 cohort.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Evans
Assistant Headteacher