



Founded 1125

Mr T Evans
Assistant Headteacher

Friday 24 February 2023

Year 8 Belonging Week 2023

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.

Year 8 Residential Trip (2 nights)

Dates: 22 – 24 May 2023

All students in Year 8 will have the opportunity to take part in a 3-day residential and 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. They will look beyond Year 8 with a day of activities focussed on leadership day on the Thursday and inter-house activities on the Friday. This week will equip students as they look ahead to Year 9 and consider the importance of accountability and collaboration.

There are 3 residential settings to choose from and information about each is provided below.

Key details about the planned trips taking place for 3 days and 2 night(s):

You will need to rank your preference of the 3 locations and residentials:

- **Youlbury** (Scout Adventures, Oxford) Indicative cost: £240

Sleeping in Bell Tents in the tented Village; activities include zip wire, Jacobs ladder, team building and archery

- **Rock UK** Summit Centre (Treharris) Indicative cost: £240

Sleeping in dormitory rooms; activities include bushcraft, climbing, caving and abseiling.

- **Operation Encounter** (Marlow) Indicative cost: £260

Sleeping in tents; Activities include archery, axe throwing, canoeing, crate stacking, Jacobs ladder and other team building tasks

This price includes:

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

READING SCHOOL, Eleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

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There will be a **minimum of four adults** accompanying each group **led by an experienced trip leader and member of staff**. Our intention is to allocate places based on preference of residential location, however this will not always be possible and is dependent on demand.

Please complete the Microsoft Form link below by Friday 3 March.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QKRT3Wr9XkC75IKx5h6C24qQC7Nwj5IPtA0dNOsy9aRUNjNOM0wxMVJBNU1SWVhGUEJNTDcwS0Y5Ty4u>

Places will be allocated and notification will be communicated by Friday 10 March. A non-refundable deposit of £50 will then be due by Friday 17 of March to secure your child's place. Payment links will be sent via Evolve with two further instalments due on 17 April and 15 May.

Parental contributions are required in order to facilitate these educational visits. Pupil Premium parents will be expected to pay the deposit only, spread across the 3 instalments with the balance of trip costs met by the school's Pupil Premium funds. We are keen to ensure that all students are able to participate; if you or your family are experiencing hardship of any nature, please contact Mr T. Evans by emailing tevens@reading-school.co.uk in confidence to discuss how we might support your child.

We apologise for the tight deadline for the request for payment, this is due to the need to secure the residential venues and coach transport. The Code of Conduct for Educational Visits will be shared in due course and must be adhered to both before and during the visit.

You will appreciate that the school has no control over the activity venue, coach operator and other organisations involved. By reserving a place on the trip, you and your child 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.

NB. All of these trips are covered by our insurance with RPA. COVID related cancellations are fully refundable.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr T Evans by emailing tevens@reading-school.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Evans
Assistant Headmaster

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