



Founded 1125

Mr T Evans,  
Assistant Headteacher.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

## Year 9 / 10 Lapland Wilderness Walking Expedition

### Autumn 2024:

Dear Parents/carer

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

The focus is on survival skills and bushcraft and students could face a range of challenges dependent on the prevailing conditions which could be as cold as -15 or as warm as the UK! They will cross an area of wilderness, probably hiking, possibly using snow shoes and carrying all their kit. They will eat well, work hard and experience togetherness and satisfaction termed 'SISU' by the Finns.

The planned program takes place from around the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November for six days, and full details of the week are included. Students will plan and lead their expedition group in wilderness areas on the edge of the Arctic Circle. They will camp and cook together, sleep in tents and take

#### Tour Details:

Group 1: 3-8 November 2023

Number of students: 16-20 students

Activity level: Fit people with previous camping experience. The expedition itself is three days and two nights and will probably take place in the Riisitunturi National Park at the heart of Finnish Lapland

Suitability: This adventure is best suited for students in good physical condition and who will be comfortable with five to seven hours of physical activity per day. Experience in winter conditions is not required.

Gear needed: Rental of all special winter expedition equipment included. Recommended personal gear list will be provided. Optional winter clothing rental set included in

**READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW**

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the price.

Route planning:

Your guide team is responsible for route planning but you will participate in navigating

Day 1 –

Arrive at Kuusamo, <sup>Founded 1125</sup> enjoy some Finnish culture, sauna and food and start planning for the expedition

Day 2 –

Complete orienteering challenges in the local woodlands, practice cooking and prepare lunches and start to pack for the expedition.

Day 3-5

Hiking tour in Riisitunturi National Park through pristine woodlands, fields and bogs! You will take turns in leading and navigating; the long nights will require you to navigate, set up camp and cook at night. After 3 hard days you will return to the lodge to relax and unwind and enjoy sauna.

Day 6

Leave Lapland with bags full of memories.

It is important that students recognise the nature of this challenge and are open to working with any and all students and we have intentionally made this experience available to those in both Year 9 and 10.

We recognise that this is an expensive trip, in part due to the nature of the environment that we are operating in and the cost of licenses and camping permits, but we also want our senior students to have access to the most exciting of opportunities.

The current estimated cost for this trip is £1400, this cannot be confirmed until our flights have been booked based on the levels of interest. An initial expression of interest is due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and a non-refundable deposit of £400 by the 17<sup>th</sup> of July based on the offer of a place.

<https://forms.office.com/e/JW2n9JT5Hw>

Parental contributions are required in order to facilitate these educational visits. Students in receipt of the Pupil Premium will be able to meet the majority of the cost of this trip with school support. 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 in confidence to discuss how we might support your child.

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 activity 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.

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

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If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tevans@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:tevans@reading-school.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

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**Mr T Evans**  
**Assistant Headmaster**

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