



Founded 1125

Mr T Evans,  
Assistant Headteacher.

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

## **Year 10 / 11 Finland Cross Country Skiing Trip**

### **Spring 2024:**

Dear Parents/carers

We are excited to provide you with details of an exciting 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. It should begin about 2 months prior to the camp. It is mostly self-studying but also includes 4 live webinars.

The planned program takes place from around the 25<sup>th</sup> of March for seven days, and full details of the week are included.

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.

Day six will be spent relaxing and enjoying sauna and snow games.

A picture is attached to give a sense of the type of conditions to be expected.

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

T: 0118 9015600 F: 0118 9352755 E: [secretary@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:secretary@reading-school.co.uk) W: [www.reading-school.co.uk](http://www.reading-school.co.uk)

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#### **TOUR DETAILS:**

- Group 1:** Monday - Sunday 25-31 March 2024
- Number of students:** 12-14 students
- Activity level:** Fit people with previous hiking experience
- Suitability:** This adventure is best suited for students in good physical condition and who will be comfortable with six to ten 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 the price.
- Route planning:** Your guide team is responsible for route planning but you will participate in navigating

It is important that students recognise the nature of this challenge and our open to working with any and all students and we have intentionally made this experience available to those in both Year 10 and 11.

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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 £1700, 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

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