



Founded 1125

Mr T Evans,
Assistant Headteacher.

23rd February 2024

Year 9 Belonging Week 2024:

Dear Parents/Carers

We are excited to provide you with details of 'Power to the 9's' residential program that is the key component of Belonging Week for Year 9 students.

Students in Year 9 continue to build on the work undertaken as a part of the Floreat program, which is designed to support them in developing a range of leadership skills and behaviours. Working with compassion to respond to challenge, students will strive to create inclusive and effective teams. A range of activities, settings and challenges have been carefully planned to allow all students to flourish. We have added a trip to Copenhagen this year, which is a trial. We hope that there is something for everyone in the mix here: all the trips have an amazing array of activities, and whilst we cannot promise every student their first choice, we will do all we can to maximise the opportunities available.

Selection is not first come first serve but do please indicate your preferences on time.

Year 9 Residential Trips run for two nights from the 3rd to 5th of June. Each trip has a program of activities running from Monday afternoon through to Wednesday lunchtime with travel time built in either side of this.

Thursday the 6th is spent in school and students complete the final Floreat walking challenge of the year on the 7th as a whole year group together.

Key details about the residential trips:

Thames Challenge: run by Reading School canoe instructors with Cloud 9 (Indicative cost: £239)

Sleeping in tents in remote locations, the river is the focus of this three-day canoe expedition: students will work in teams to plan and prepare their routes and all meals. They will experience the joy of life on expedition, away from the cut and thrust of everyday life and paddle through glorious countryside locations. The trip is fully catered with students cooking their own meals in teams and enjoying plenty of relaxation on campsites each evening.

READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

T: 0118 9015600 F: 0118 9352755 E: secretary@reading-school.co.uk W: www.reading-school.co.uk

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.
Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.



Founded 1125

Howstean Gorge: Yorkshire Dales (Indicative cost: £295)

Sleeping in Bell Tents in the heart of the Dales, students are surrounded by rolling hills and rugged craggs. The cave system of Howstean is right below the campsite which overlooks a stunning limestone gorge. Activities have a focus on rock and overcoming challenge with a superb program including canyoning, abseiling, caving and a range of activities taking place in the surrounding Dales. Food is served from the Howstean cafe and is hearty and there are excellent facilities on site. Students will not forget the abseil down into the gorge, or the via-ferrata climb they get to take part in.

Reach: Torbay: (Indicative cost: £275)

Sleeping in Bell Tents in a glorious coastal location, this trip is focussed on the water with a range of activities that have a coastal focus. The itinerary is likely to include coastering, paddle boarding and sea kayaking. This is the 3rd Year we have been to Reach and students come back proud of their achievements.

Copenhagen: (Indicative cost: £750 - which we are working to reduce)

This trip offers students the opportunity to take part in a unique program of activities in the amazing harbour settings around Copenhagen. We will be working with Laurence Halstead; an ex-Team GB fencer and he is at the heart of this new program. Students will have the chance to take part in 'kayak polo' on the harbour, a fencing workshop run by Laurence at a world class fencing centre and enjoy a bouldering session at Beta Boulders, one of Copenhagen's state-of-the-art climbing centres. We will be staying in a youth hostel, flying from Heathrow and the budget includes transport on the Railair link from Reading Station and all meals. Copenhagen is the world's best city to cycle around so a cycle tour of the harbour is likely to also feature.

The indicative price detailed with each trip includes:

- All meals whilst on residential except for a packed lunch required in day 1
- Return coach travel
- Accommodation

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 dependant on demand.

Please complete the below Microsoft Form link by 1200 on Monday 4th of March.

<https://forms.office.com/e/53M7N3EPvG>

READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

T: 0118 9015600 F: 0118 9352755 E: secretary@reading-school.co.uk W: www.reading-school.co.uk

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.
Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.



Founded 1125

Places will be allocated, and notification will be communicated by 11th March and a non-refundable deposit of £100 (£250 for CPH) will then be due by 19th March to secure your son's place. Payment links will be sent via Evolve with two further instalments in April and May.

Parental contributions are required 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 can 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.

We apologise for the tight deadline for request for payment on the above trip, 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 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

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Evans
Assistant Headmaster

READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

T: 0118 9015600 F: 0118 9352755 E: secretary@reading-school.co.uk W: www.reading-school.co.uk

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.
Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.