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Headmaster: Chris Evans

Friday 24 January 2025

## Year 7 Belonging Week 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to confirm details of the Year 7 'Boys That Bond': house activities and curriculum enrichment week that will take place from the 2 to 6 June 2025 and will involve all students in Year 7 for five days of exciting and enriching activities.

This exciting program has been carefully designed to offer a variety of activities that build on the success of the Elective program. The week will culminate in a special "Festival of Belonging" event on Thursday, 5th June, where Year 7 students will camp together on the school field. Throughout the day, they will take part in a range of activities, working within their houses and collaborating with students from other groups. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to bond, develop new friendships, and celebrate their sense of belonging.

### Planned Schedule

- **Dinton Pastures Activity Centre:** Students will take part in collaborative activities such as raft building, archery, crate stacking, and other team-based tasks. Each student will attend on one of the days (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday).
- **Science Museum Trip:** Students will travel to the Science Museum in London, where they will explore and investigate scientific topics, extending their classroom learning through hands-on experiences. Each student will attend on one of the days (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday).
- **Creative Collaborations:** Students will take part in at least one creative project, which will include music, sculpture, drama, creative writing, poetry, and street dance. These projects will culminate in a showcase performance at the end of the day.
- **Camping & Team Building:** On Thursday, 5th June, students will begin setting up bell tents on the school field. They will engage in team-building activities and enjoy a BBQ. Staff will supervise the overnight stay, with students grouped in tents of 6-8 students.
- **House Cricket Tournament:** On the final day, students will take part in a house cricket competition, where they will apply the skills learned throughout the week.

### **Next steps**

Final costs are currently being finalised. Payment links will be shared via Evolve within the next fortnight. Payment can either be made in full, or by instalment (payment instalment deadlines will be shared when the payment links are issued).

### **Copenhagen Students Only**

If your child has been contacted regarding the Copenhagen trip taking place during this week, you should already have received an e-mail from Mr T Evans to advise you of the next steps.

### **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 only pay the deposit, 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 me directly. We will handle any inquiries confidentially and sympathetically.

### **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.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the week, please contact Miss Katie Rosser-Evans ([krosser-evans@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:krosser-evans@reading-school.co.uk)), who will be responsible for leading the Belonging Week for the year 7 cohort.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr T Evans**  
**Assistant Headteacher**