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Headmaster: Chris Evans

**Friday 24 January 2025**

## **Year 8 Belonging Week 2025**

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. The week is divided into two parts: a three-day residential trip and two days of collaborative activities held on the school site.

<b>Residential Trip (2 nights)</b>	<b>19 to 21 May</b>
<b>On Site Activities</b>	<b>22 and 23 May</b>

All students in Year 8 will have the opportunity to take part in a 3-day residential 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. This week will equip students as they look ahead to Year 9 and consider the importance of accountability and collaboration.

We plan to take students to one of three residential locations: Cumulus Outdoor, Rock UK Summit Centre or Stubbers Adventure Centre. Each residential location has been thoughtfully chosen to provide a carefully curated program of activities tailored to offer the best experiences for our students. All centres are dedicated to inspiring students to step beyond their comfort zones, work collaboratively, build vital teambuilding skills, and forge new friendships along the way. Students will be invited to consider the following locations:

### **Cumulus Outdoor**

Situated in Dorset, students will enjoy a variety of exciting and engaging experiences, including kayaking, paddleboarding, high ropes, air rifles, archery, axe-throwing, and our water park. These activities are designed to challenge them, build confidence, and encourage teamwork in a supportive environment. School Residentials and Adventure Activities in Dorset | Cumulus

### **Rock UK Summit Centre**

Set on the edge of the stunning Brecon Beacons, students will enjoy a program of exciting activities based around the Summit Centre. With outdoor adventures like bushcraft, climbing, caving, canoeing, kayaking, and abseiling, Students will have the opportunity to take on exciting challenges and develop self-confidence. Summit Centre - Rock UK

### **Stubbers Adventure Centre**

Based in Essex, this activity centre offers students the chance to take part in an exciting range of activities, including jet skiing, rifle shooting, abseiling, bridge crossing, paddleboarding, and laser combat. Students will be able to embrace new challenges and strengthen their confidence. Stubbers | Adventure sports center in Upminster, England.

The following is also included for each centre:

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

There will be a minimum of four adults accompanying each group led by an experienced trip leader and member of staff.

### **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 pay the deposit only, 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 Mr Tom Evans directly. We will handle any enquiries 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.

### **Next Steps**

Costs for each location are currently being finalised and will be provided on the Belonging Week 2025 selections form, which will be shared with your child next week. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to review the available centres detailed above and discuss the options with your child. A Microsoft form link will be provided to all students next week, and selections must be made by no later than 7 February.

Places will be confirmed shortly afterwards, with deposit payments due by Friday, 21 February 2025.

While we aim to allocate places based on the preference of residential location, this may not always be possible and will depend on demand.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the week, please contact Mr C Betteridge (cbetteridge@reading-school.co.uk), who will be responsible for leading Belonging Week for the Year 8 cohort.

Yours sincerely,

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