

04th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 and Year 8 Bushcraft Residential – Monday 14th to Friday 18th July 2025

I am delighted to be able to share with you the opportunity of a 5-day residential trip we have on offer for all Year 7 and Year 8 students during our Enrichment week in 2024 – 2025 academic year. This will be the only residential offered for Year 7 and Year 8 in this academic year.

Enrichment week will be held from Monday 14th July – Friday 18th July 2025.

All students in years 7-10 will participate in this week of activities. The details of what else is available (outside of this residential) will be shared with you shortly. This may include day trips out and/or in school activities for your child.

The Bushcraft Company we have chosen for our Year 7 and Year 8 residential, is a leading provider of outdoor education in the UK. Every year they recruit remarkable individuals to join their team and inspire young people. If your child loves the outdoors and wants to create unforgettable experiences, then this is the trip for them. We believe some of the most important life skills are best learned outside and it's also a great way to give students the chance to grow independently and enjoy their Enrichment week to its fullest.

The price of the residential trip will be £380.

In summary, the price of the trip includes the following:

- Return coach travel from Patchway Community School to Badminton Woods in Gloucestershire.
- 4 nights full board Safari- Style Bell Tent accommodation, including separate single sex porta-loos and showers. The camp comprises of a large yurt, field kitchen and cosy campfire.
- A 5-day actioned packed itinerary which includes a range of outdoor activities such as Fire Building and Lighting, Animal ID and Tracking, Shelter Building, Trap Making, Target Sports, Wilderness First Aid, Foraging and Bushtucker Trial, Scenario SOS, and many more exciting activities.
- Experienced instructors who take care of activities, mealtimes and pastoral care for students.
- Comprehensive insurance.

The only additional cost will be for the appropriate clothing and accessories necessary when spending a week outside in the wilderness.

If your child wishes to experience this trip, you will need to reserve a place initially by paying a deposit via Arbor. The trip will 'go live' on Arbor at **10am on Monday 7th October and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis**. Payment for this trip via Arbor automatically confirms you have consented to giving permission for your child to attend the trip.

Based on previous experience, it is anticipated that this trip will fill up quickly.

The company also require us to make regular payments before paying the final balance. Therefore, you must also ensure you adhere to the following **key payment** dates: -

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| • Deposit 1 | £100 paid upon registration on Arbor & by 31st October 2024 |
| • Deposit 2 | £50 paid by 30th November 2024 |
| • Deposit 3 | £50 paid by 30th December 2024 |
| • Deposit 4 | £50 paid by 30th January 2025 |
| • Deposit 5 | £50 paid by 28th February 2025 |
| • Deposit 6 | £80 paid by 30th March 2025 |

Failure to meet the deadline for a key payment could result in your child being removed from the trip, with no refund of monies paid to that date.

The offer of participation for this residential trip will be subject to each student's behaviour (conduct) and attendance (with all students aiming for a minimum of 96%). Thus, the school reserves the right to withdraw any student from any trip or activity at any point based on student wellbeing, safeguarding, conduct, or any other reason that is in the best interests of the student, the trip, and/or the school. Under these circumstances the cost of any payments already made will not be refunded. Parent(s)/carer(s) and students will be informed if there is a risk of jeopardising a place on chosen activities.

All paid monies are **non-refundable**, unless the school chooses to cancel the trip due to insufficient numbers. **No refunds** will be available at any point, as the school will have to settle the payment with the company once reserved. This includes if your child moves or leaves the school.

If a student is unable to attend this trip because of ill health or an accident and the school is unable to obtain a refund from the travel company, then a letter will be required from their doctor with details of the illness/accident to make a claim through the insurance policy.

Please refer to our Charging and Remissions policy for more information <https://www.patchwaycs.org.uk/Policies/>

If you are happy for your child to attend the trip, **please complete the online payment by logging into the [Arbor Parent Portal](#) from 10am on Monday 7 October 2024.**

Financial support

If you are entitled to FSM or are Pupil Premium, you may be eligible for support.

Full details can be found in our Charging and Remissions Policy <https://www.patchwaycs.org.uk/Policies/>.

Please contact the Finance Office pcs-finance@olympustrust.co.uk for more information.

Medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition or takes regular medication that the school should be made aware of, please arrange to meet with the trip organiser or contact the Office Manager tanja.hull@olympustrust.co.uk to complete a Home-school agreement.

A PLACE FOR ALL

School trips with us are a little different, taking students into the wild and giving them an unforgettable back to nature experience, where they will pick up life skills in the freedom of a unique outdoor environment.

The Bushcraft Company Statement

For more information, please find attached an example itinerary taken direct from the Bushcraft Company website, regarding this fantastic residential opportunity, for your child.

Alternatively, please visit their website. <https://thebushcraftcompany.com/>

A parent briefing for this residential trip will be arranged respectively nearer the date of the trip, however, please feel free to contact me before then should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr Matt Evans - Trip lead
Curriculum Team Leader – Science