



BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Brookfield Community School

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Headteacher: Mr K Hirst

16th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposed Expedition to Mexico in July 2025

Brookfield Community School is planning its biannual biodiversity expedition to the forests and coral reefs of Mexico in the summer of 2025. The trip is aimed at students who are interested in conservation, exploration and travel. The trip will be organised by Operation Wallacea, a well-established organisation experienced in the running of scientific expeditions and with whom we have already run a number of very successful trips to Mexico and Honduras.

The expedition will begin in Mexico around 20th July 2025 and finish on Monday 4th August 2025 – this may change slightly due to flight schedules. One week will be spent in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, an area in the very south of the country in the Yucatan peninsula. In this part of Mexico, Operation Wallacea scientists (with accompanying volunteers) are producing a detailed report of the forest structure and biodiversity. This project is expected to take several years and will ensure that the forest and its associated species can be protected effectively and be used to generate an income for local communities through activities such as eco-tourism. The students will spend this first week camping within the reserve.

After a week of work in the forest, students will travel to the small town of Akumal on the Caribbean coast where Operation Wallacea is running coral reef and turtle monitoring programs. As well as assisting the scientists, students will have the opportunity to undertake a PADI open water dive-training course that allows them to dive safely on the coral reef, whilst also gaining an internationally recognised diving qualification. Accommodation for this second week will be in dormitories.

The cost of the trip is expected to be approximately £3,500. Unfortunately, we cannot be more precise until travel costs, such as flight prices, have been confirmed.

Expressions of interest need to be returned via the slip below by Monday 11th March 2024. Parents will be contacted via email to advise if your child has been successful in securing a place and the first non-refundable deposit of £200 will need to be paid by 25th March 2024 via ParentPay and the second non-refundable deposit of £200 four weeks later (please note that deposits are only refundable if the trip is cancelled by school). I will then contact you to discuss the schedule for future payments. If your child is unsuccessful they will be placed on a reserve list.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me on s.nash@brookfieldcs.org.uk. Alternatively, more information is available on the Operation Wallacea website www.opwall.com

Yours faithfully

S Nash

Mrs S Nash
Science Teacher/Expedition Co-Ordinator

Expression of Interest - Operation Wallacea Expedition to Mexico 2025 – return by 11th March 2024

Student's name: Form:

Parent/carer signature: Date:

Are you intending on applying to Brookfield Community School's 6th Form?

Yes / No