



April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Morocco 2022 – Year 9 and 10 students**

I hope over the past few years you will have been aware of some of the cultural capital opportunities that we are able to provide our pupils through our enrichment programme. One of these is an opportunity to take part in something amazing and unique – a school expedition to Morocco in the summer of 2022.

This expedition was planned to go out this summer, 2021, however due to Coronavirus we have needed to postpone by a year. This was due to a number of factors including:

- Allowing travel to reopen and us understanding the state of play across the globe
- Allow pupils to come out of lockdown and work on fundraising for the expedition
- Ensure we have all safety and support structures in place with the current pandemic
- To reassure pupils and parents in a calmer climate

We currently have a team of seven pupils who are working hard to get to Morocco next year but would like to increase the size of this team which is why we are relaunching to our current Year 9 and 10 pupils in school.

This letter will explain about the expedition and will give you the link to our bespoke website to access all the information. I hope many students will see this as being a really exciting opportunity and have the desire to get involved. Our current Year 9 pupils would travel in the summer of them being in Year 10 and return in the September as Year 11. Our current Year 10 pupils will travel at the end of Year 11, after their examination period and then start at their post 16 provisions.

### **The Expedition**

The expedition will take place with school staff supporting, with myself, Mr Rampling being the lead teacher. Outlook Expeditions who are the leading independent provider of youth expeditions will run the overall trip. You have received this letter following a Zoom introduction. Below is access to the bespoke website for further information, including the payment schedule and sign up form. <https://outlookexpeditions.com/schools/vale-of-york-academy-2022>

Taking part in an expedition is so much more than a school trip. This is a journey that will stay with your child forever. It will be eye opening, challenging and truly life changing. Students will experience different cultures and environments whilst developing an array of life skills. This could be a chance for your son/daughter to learn a new culture, support a community project of those in need, learn a new language, make new friends and gather endless stories and experiences to talk about for years to come.

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Universities and employers are increasingly looking for evidence of personal and social skills. Expeditions take young people out of their comfort zone and expand their horizons whilst boosting independence, confidence, teamwork and many other qualities that have a lasting impact on the lives (and CV's) of each participant. As we start to see between the trees on the current pandemic, we know fully how much has been at stake for pupils and we hope this enthuses many students.

I will be leading the staff team heading out to Morocco and will be working with the students over the next year to help them raise the funds needed. This is a tighter turn around to our normal 18-20 month launches, but due to the pandemic we wanted to wait until we could had a clearer picture. Outlook Expeditions will lead the venture in Morocco and guide us to ensure we have the best possible time. There will be trekking in the Atlas Mountains, a community project, time for relaxation, and maybe time to ride a camel! The success of 2019's trip makes this launch even more exciting!

### Itinerary

(This has not been finalised but this is an example of what the itinerary may look a little like)

Wed	July	Depart from the UK and Arrive in Marrakech
Thurs	July	Orientation & travel to Ouarzazate
Fri	July	Toubkal Ascent
Sat	July	Toubkal Ascent
Sun	July	Toubkal Ascent (Climb the highest Peak)
Mon	July	Toubkal Ascent (Climb the highest Peak)
Tue	July	Travel to Cascade D'Ouzoud
Wed	July	Cascade D'Ouzoud & travel to Toubkal National Park
Thu	July	Travel to Avon Academy
Fri	July	Avon Academy (Project phase)
Sat	July	Avon Academy
Sun	July	Avon Academy
Mon	July	Avon Academy
Tue	July	Avon, Travel to Marrakech
Wed	July	Depart from Marrakech
Thu	August	Arrive back in the UK

Outlook Expeditions has designed us a bespoke website as discussed above and on this website you are able to explore all about the expedition and about the company itself. This is your chance to find out more about the adventure planned. There is no obligation at all associated with looking at the online portal, if you want sign up you can do this via the portal.

**The due date for the deposit and sign up is 21 May 2021. The deposit is £125 with following amounts payable as outlined on the payment plan thereafter.**

Please can I make clear, the premise of the expedition is not for parents to find payment for the full cost, the idea is for students to fundraise as much of the money as possible through many different mechanisms. This not only allows everyone the chance to engage with this opportunity, but also for pupils to develop key skills.

## **FAQ's**

### **How do I register for the Expedition?**

In order to register you will need the Expedition Reference Number (ERN), 2022AXQ03T1. You will then need to go to the Basecamp Portal, enter the ERN where requested in the 'New users' section on the right hand side and then complete the subsequent application form.

### **How do I pay for my Expedition?**

Outlook offers two different payment methods for your Expedition:

- Standing Order - payments are made automatically on a monthly basis
- Fixed payment – three set payments spread across the expedition build up which can be paid online or over the phone.

The payment schedule for your expedition can be found on the bespoke website. You will then pay this through the Basecamp where everything is stored.

### **When do I need to sign up by?**

The due date for the deposit and sign up is **21 May 2021**. The deposit required is £125 and then the payment plan following this is laid out on the portal.

### **What am I insured for on my Expedition?**

Included in your insurance with Outlook is cover for medical emergencies whilst in country. This includes any emergency treatment needed and repatriation if it is deemed medically necessary. It is vital that we are aware of **ANY** condition that may affect your health, wellbeing or safety whilst you are overseas, so you must complete the Medical Declaration form on your Basecamp portal. This will be used by their Planning Team to complete the risk assessments for our itinerary.

### **What is not included in Outlook's insurance?**

Personal possessions are not covered by this policy. This includes passports and visas. If your passport is lost or stolen whilst you are overseas, it can be time consuming and costly to replace it. Any associated costs such as replacing documents and booking new flights are not covered by this policy.

Pre-departure cancellation is also not included in the insurance. We would strongly recommend that you consider taking out a cancellation policy independently. Please ensure that you read the policy documents before entering into any agreement and that it is suitable for you. Any decision taken regarding a claim made against the policy will be made by the claim handler and not Outlook Expeditions. All cancellations, for any reason remain subject to our terms and conditions.

### **What is the 'Basecamp Portal'?**

The Basecamp Portal is where you can view and submit information relating to your expedition. Your Basecamp Portal can include:

- Things to do checklist
- Passport details
- Fitness Declaration
- Medical Declaration
- Consent form
- Flight schedule
- Information on upcoming build up events
- Expedition itinerary and kit list

- Visas and inoculations information
- You're Payment Plan, including instalment amounts and due dates
- Booking Terms & Conditions

As your itinerary and preparations develop, you will be notified when new information is posted to Basecamp.

You can access Basecamp using the email address and password given during your registration process (you will have an email and password for both the participant and the parent, so you can both log into Basecamp).

### **How can students earn money for their Expedition?**

An integral part of the experience for participants is the ability to self-fund part, or all the trip cost. There may be challenges along the way but working towards a milestone such as this provides a range of learning opportunities.

Over the years, we have been inspired by the creativity and ingenuity of our teams in their ability to earn funds – from physical challenges to setting up small enterprises. Head to the 'Pay Your Way' section of the website for loads of ideas, inspiration and useful resources. Mr Rampling and staff will also support greatly with this process.

### **I have a pre-existing medical condition; can I still take part in an Expedition?**

Our Expedition itineraries are designed to be as inclusive as possible and can be adapted to suit a variety of needs. Outlooks extensive insurance means that most existing medical conditions are covered if pre-disclosed. However, we would recommend that you call Outlook Customer Support Team prior to registering so that we can carry out an initial screening to assess your suitability for travel.

### **Finally**

I am sure that this will have sparked many more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email on [m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy) or telephone 01904 560000.

Yours sincerely,



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