



# Sandringham School

'Everybody can be Somebody'



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Acting Deputy Headteacher: Kate Mouncey, BSc (Hons), M.Ed.

Letter No: 068/2023

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Families,

## Sixth Form Expedition to Sri Lanka February 6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 (provisional dates)

The planning for the next Sixth Form expedition which will be to Sri Lanka is well under way with an amazing itinerary. It is open to current Year 11 and 12 students.

Key elements of Sandringham Sixth Form expeditions are to enable students to experience a new and different culture, to provide an opportunity to undertake some conservation/voluntary work and to inspire and develop students' confidence for further travel in the future. Although there are obvious links with certain subjects, it is not a subject specific expedition and aims to broaden students' outlook on the world.

There will be some minor changes and additions to the itinerary but expedition highlights include;

After arriving in Colombo, we will transfer to Kandy for a short tour. The next day we will visit the Tooth Relic Temple, one of the holiest places for Buddhists in Sri Lanka before heading out to a tea plantation. Following this, we will visit Sinharaja Forest, a primary rain forest with numerous endemic wildlife and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The next stop is Udawalawe to experience the conservation work at the Elephant Transit Home which rehabilitates and cares for orphaned calves until they are capable enough to be released back in to the wild. This will be followed by a visit to a rural school/village. Moving on to Yala, we will go on an early morning safari in Yala National Park where it is possible to see leopards, elephants, sloth bears and more. In the afternoon, mindful of our carbon footprint, we will engage in a tree planting project organised by Foundation of Goodness, an organisation which supports rural communities. After visiting Galle, including a tour of Galle Fort and the Portuguese area we continue to Koggala and a whale and dolphin boat trip, hoping to see Blue Whales, the biggest mammals in the world. One of the final highlights is a visit to a turtle conservation hatchery before a city tour of Colombo. In addition to visiting ancient temples and sampling local food, we will witness a cultural show and there will be opportunities for students to show their skills bartering at local markets.



We anticipate the cost of the trip to be **between £2185 and £2285** per student, subject to student numbers. The payment schedule will be as follows:

- £200 – **non-refundable deposit via ParentPay by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. If the trip is oversubscribed places will be allocated randomly and if your child is not successful in gaining a place, the deposit will be refunded.
- £200 – this is the amount payable each month via ParentPay from January 2024 and must be completed no later than **31st October 2024**. Please make your payment at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) This will appear in your payment items as one single item with a reducing balance. Our finance department will monitor this and reminders will be sent out if regular payments are not being made.

We appreciate that the trip cost is a significant amount of money, as such please note what is included in this cost:

- Return flights London – Colombo
- Air Passenger Duty
- Hotel accommodation
- Entry costs and additional fees to all museums, attractions and visits
- All meals except for dinner on the final evening when we fly home
- Soft drinks with meals
- Tips for guides and drivers
- Travel to and from Heathrow

Items which are not included in this cost are:

- Visa for Sri Lanka – approximately £40
- Spending money
- Any necessary vaccinations and medication

Please note, if your child is not travelling on a British passport it will be the responsibility of parent/carers to apply for visas and ensure all travel documents are present at the time of travel.

It is imperative that payment deadlines for this trip are strictly adhered to so that the necessary payments can be made to the tour operator and ensure that adequate numbers are secured. Please note that our tour operator Travelbound does not differ from other tour companies with regard to cancellations and cancellation fees will apply.

If a student applies to go on this trip but then does not continue their education at Sandringham School, their money will not be refunded unless there is another student able to take up the place.

Once all arrangements have been finalised with our tour operator we will hold an information evening for students and parent/carers to provide all the relevant information for this trip prior to our departure. This will take place during late 2024.

Students are encouraged to organise and participate in various fundraising activities. Please encourage your child to take part in these activities so that they form a good team for the trip and so that the total cost can be defrayed.

Participation in this trip is subject to good conduct in school prior to the trip taking place. If any student's behaviour, attendance or attitude is in question and they are removed from the trip due to their conduct, any monies paid to date will not be refunded.

The school will follow all advice given by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Education and our tour operators when it comes to overseas travel for school trips. The tour operators we use provide both ABTA and ATOL protection as part of our tour packages. In the event that the FCO advises "against all travel" to an area or region, then these policies provide protection to prevent any loss in case of necessary cancellation. The school holds travel insurance through the Department for Education Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) which provides cover in case of travel disruption, medical issues and other emergencies. This insurance does not cover any personal items including money, phones, gadgets and clothing in case of loss, damage or theft. Should you decide to remove your child from any trip where travel is still advised then this will not be covered by insurance, ABTA or ATOL.

Yours sincerely

Vikki Borman  
Teacher of PE