

Radley College Expedition to Honduras

There will be a presentation to parents of boys (and girls) in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are interested in finding out more information about the trip to Honduras in July 2019.

The presentation will be by Michael Noone, Head of Biology at Radley College, and will take place in the Jacoby Studio on Tuesday 16th January at 7.00pm.

The trip is an opportunity of a lifetime, an opportunity that most young people never have the chance to experience. Come along and listen; I guarantee an entertaining 60 minutes or so.

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted to be able to invite your son to take part in Radley's next scientific expedition to **Honduras** (provisional dates: **10th July – 23rd July 2019**). It is open to all students studying Biology in the current Fifths and 6.1, but others who have a particular interest in wildlife, ecology and/or outdoor pursuits may apply for a place. This will be the sixth expedition I have organised to the region and I am sure that, like its predecessors, it will be a fantastic success and invaluable to the students both in terms of scientific learning, personal development and UCAS/CV applications. It will also be great fun!



The expedition is being run in conjunction with Operation Wallacea. Our group will team up with academics and students from Oxford and other international universities to help with a major biodiversity survey of the tropical montane cloud forest in Cusuco National Park. In recent years our groups have witnessed the discovery of a mammal new to science and data collected by them has contributed to a front-page article in *Nature*. Cusuco National Park is listed by the UN as being in the top 100 of 173,000 such sites surveyed worldwide for biodiversity, so visiting there is truly special.

The group will fly into San Pedro Sula (probably via Miami) and will be taken straight up to their mountain forest camp. For the first part of the week they will be learning some basic jungle survival skills and how to complete forest structure surveys. For this they will be based in a mountain village community or at one of the Base Camps. In the second part of the week the group will be trekking into one of the remoter camps where they will be living in hammocks and helping with forest and habitat surveys. During both the training and surveying periods the group will have the chance to join the other biodiversity teams working on dung beetles, butterflies, moths,



jewel scarab beetles, amphibians, reptiles, birds, small mammals and bats. In addition they can do an amazing Canopy Access course (for an optional £120 extra) with the training team that does much of the BBC filming work in forest canopies for series including "Planet Earth".

For the second week the group will go to the coast and complete a Caribbean reef ecology course learning how to identify the corals, invertebrates and fish. Most will do this by scuba diving but snorkelling is also an option if preferred. Boys who are not already divers can use the College's Sub-Aqua Club to do the confined water training at Radley, allowing them to make best use of their time in the Caribbean. This currently costs £225, almost half price compared to some dive centres. We will spend the Marine Week on Utila, one of Honduras' "Bay Islands". After the challenging forest week, the boys will relish the opportunity to stay in a hotel right beside a coral reef in a relaxed Caribbean atmosphere and climate!

FROM THE HEAD OF BIOLOGY
RADLEY COLLEGE, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE OX14 2HR

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Radley College Expedition to Honduras Cont ...



The cost of the expedition will be £1225 approx to Operation Wallacea which covers all food, accommodation, training, insurance and participation in the research programme. Dive equipment hire, PIC (diving registration) cards, flights and other transport should cost about another £1770 so, to be on the safe side, we are suggesting students budget for **a total cost of about £2995**. A deposit of £300 will be required and the balance will be payable either (a) as a slightly reduced up-front payment of £2650 or (b) in instalments of £750 in March, July and December 2018 and £445 in March 2019. If £2995 proves to be an over/underestimate an appropriate adjustment will be made to the final instalment (flight costs won't be known until August 2018 and, in the past, have varied from £700 to £1055).

The first part of the expedition involves voluntary conservation work so the students will be actively encouraged to seek funding to assist with their costs. Operation Wallacea have a professional fundraising team who will visit Radley next summer term and help those students who wish to raise a proportion of the total sum needed themselves. Coupled with a period of summer work in 2018 this could enable many students to self-fund a substantial proportion of their costs.

If you would like your son to join this expedition **please return the following to me at Radley ASAP or by no later than 9th February 2018:**

Parental Consent Form **AND** Code of Conduct
Deposit cheque for £300 payable to "Radley College"

More detailed information about Operation Wallacea, its Honduras research sites, health and safety, etc. can be found at www.opwall.com. You may also have seen informative articles about past Honduras Expeditions in editions of The Radleian and the Radley Newsletter. I will be running an **information meeting for parents** in the Biology Department at Radley (Queen's Court, room B5) at **7:30pm on Thursday 4th January** and look forward to the possibility of meeting you then.



Yours sincerely,

Michael Noone,
Head of Biology, Radley College

Feedback from some of the 115 Radleians who have joined on the last three Honduras Expeditions:

"Really recommended, best experience, highlight of the summer, legendary." "Thank you - Greatest two weeks of my life!" "It was an amazing diving experience – went diving in Greece afterwards and it wasn't nearly the same." "Huge variety of animals." "Great! – more scientific than I thought it would be." "Very good – I understood a lot though not doing biology." "Loved it – felt I had more responsibility for myself." "Would go again for sure – great fun!" "Amazing trip."