



Friends of Cherwell

Transformational Adventure Study Trip For Year 12 Needs Your Support

After two years of lockdown restrictions, we now have the chance for a transformative, unique adventure and study opportunity for some of our students. A group of 32 Year 12 students for whom travel would not normally be possible will be funded to spend two weeks in Finland and Estonia. Supported by a Turing Scheme and British Council grant, we will partner with local schools, learn about sustainability and culture and develop personal skills through group travel. We need support to fund activities on the trip: £40 enables one student to explore Finnish forestry; £80 enables one student to go 'aurorae hunting'; £200 enables the whole group to have a guided workshop and talk.

What do we need?

We won a grant from the British Council and the Turing Scheme to enable us to make this trip free for students, so that we can reach those for whom it would not otherwise be possible. The grant covers flights and basic costs of living. It does not include activities, study tours, workshops and 'upgrades' (such as meals out or a train journey). We will spend half our time working with our partner schools but we would like to be able to give students experiences unique to Finland and Estonia. Without financial support, this will not be possible.

What is the trip?

Our trip involves 32 Year 12 students (aged 16/17, A Levels) travelling to Finland and Estonia for 16 days from 4 April - 19 April 2022. We will split time between three locations with new school partnerships in each base: Lyska (Rovaniemi, Finnish Lapland); Espoonlahti (Helsinki); Gustav Adolfs Gümnaasiumi (Tallinn, Estonia). Students will be staying in hostel dormitories.

The trip has three themes: sustainability; culture; personal development. Students will undertake a project around these themes before, during and after the trip.

Students have been selected for the trip after an extensive application process involving a 600 word written application and a two-hour selection event. With 181 applicants, the trip was competitive. In line with the ethos of the trip, we prioritised students for whom travel of this kind would be most transformative; 16 of our students are in receipt of free school meals, 14 have special educational needs affecting communication or social interaction and six have caring responsibilities.

What activities do you want to fund?

We need financial support to enable students to take part in activities, study tours, workshops and to experience 'upgrades' to the most basic form of living. Our target is £10,960. The list below reflects our 'menu of activities' we would like to fund. In order to maintain parity and ensure access for all, we have limited student spending money to €10 per day (to include souvenirs, postcards and snacks!). As such, students will be unable to do activities unless we can fund them as a whole group.

We would also like to fund a preparatory residential stay in the UK to allow team building, as our students do not know each other well, and to build key skills for travel, as some of the students have never independently stayed away from home before.

Menu of Activities

Activity	Purpose	Theme	Cost
Preparatory Residential (London, March)	Research the trip, prepare as a group and learn travel, communication and leadership skills.	Personal development	£80 per student
Aurora Hunting Tour	Discover the Northern Lights, embrace the outdoors with bushcraft in Finnish Lapland and learn about the indigenous Sami people.	Sustainability; personal development	£80 per student
Kuusijärvi Lake Adventure	Learn about forestry and lakes of Southern Finland. Be active in the wilderness (including joining in the sauna culture of the locals).	Sustainability; personal development	£40 per student
Heureka Science Centre	Learn about astronomy at the planetarium, the science of geology; Finnish sustainability and climate change.	Sustainability	£40 per student
Train travel	Travel by train (instead of coach) from north to south Finland, watching the country change.	Culture	£40 per student
Medieval Tallinn Guided Tour	Learn about the complex history of Estonia and Northern Europe from medieval times to the present day	Culture	£400
Pilke Science Centre	Learn about the ecology, science and ecosystems of northern forests and how to use them sustainably.	Sustainability	£300
Finnish food sample meal	Experience traditional Finnish food and learn about culture and geography through a culinary tour.	Culture; personal development	£300

Activity	Purpose	Theme	Cost
Suomenlinna Fortress	Explore Finland's military history with a guide.	Culture	£300
Helsinki Zoo	Learn about Finnish wildlife and natural conservation programmes.	Sustainability	£300
Oodi library workshop	Develop project work with workshops in private hire of Aalto's famous glass 'cube'.	Culture; personal development	£200
Seurasaari Easter Festival	Learn about Sami culture through Easter bonfires, with a workshop on local history.	Culture	£200

What impact will my support have?

Your support will give a student an unforgettable and life-changing experience. We know that learning outside the classroom can empower students, unlock their potential and help them to embrace (safe) risk. We know it will inspire new interests, forge new connections and give students the impetus, belief and investment they need to thrive in their A level studies too.

To maximise the study trip's impact, students have committed to a preparatory and legacy programme. In preparation, students will research a 'specialist' theme, begin our school partnerships and complete a series of challenges to carbon offset our journey through personal lifestyle changes and in-school group actions. During the trip, students will complete a personal journal, reflecting on what they gain from their experiences. During the legacy programme, students will share their experiences at a presentation evening and by leading a class or tutorial mentoring activity for younger students. We would love to share students' reflections, photos and thanks with you after our trip.

Is there an opportunity for business sponsorship?

Yes! We would love to speak to any businesses who might sponsor the trip, either by funding a larger-cost activity (£200+) in full or by a general donation. In return, we can offer media features (in local press in Oxfordshire and in Rovaniemi, Helsinki and Tallinn), social media exposure (@CherwellEnrich and school website) and credit in trip reports (to the British Council and Department for Education; to the school community). We would also encourage in-kind donations.

How do I find out more?

Contact Charlotte Richer (English teacher and Academic Enrichment Coordinator) on cricher@cherwellschool.org

Follow online: [@CherwellEnrich](https://twitter.com/CherwellEnrich)

Contact Friends of Cherwell: members@friendsofcherwell.org