



December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Rwanda 2027 – Expression of Interest

Last year, a group of intrepid year 10 students set out on an adventure across the equator all the way to Rwanda. The team received a very warm welcome from our Parish partners in Kigali and Maranyundo, in the Eastern Province, and took part in all kinds of cultural activities.

Dibden parish has a longstanding partnership with our link parish in Rwanda, and this link has enabled us to open a fantastic opportunity for Noadswood students to visit this vibrant and culturally rich part of the world. Widening this partnership has also helped strengthen the Dibden partnership, with Noadswood students meeting children in the link school, and taking part in a range of activities including a fantastic football match, cultural sketches, dancing, community work and the delivery of much needed educational and sports equipment.

We are now planning Rwanda 2027, and we are looking to invite Expressions of Interest from students who would love to explore their passion for culture, diversity, education and adventure, and who are looking for the opportunity to grow their leadership skills.

The proposed trip dates are from **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2027**. The estimated cost is £2300 per student. We recognise this is a substantial undertaking and are planning early to enable successful applicants time to raise funds and spread the cost.

The total cost includes all items listed below. Parents/carers will need to add the cost of vaccines. The trip will run for 9 nights, comprising two overnight flights and 7 nights in Rwanda, enabling activities to take place over 9 days in Rwanda. The estimated cost includes:

- All food, including speciality foods, buffets and pizza and hot and cold drinks
- Flights and transfers
- Expert safari guides
- All transport while in Rwanda
- Local walking tours
- 2-day safari in Akagera National Park
- Craft workshop (art and weaving)
- Visits to the link school and parish
- Visit to the Umusambi Village nature reserve
- Swimming at the Hotel des Mille Collines
- Remote medical support
- School travel insurance



- Accommodation

If your son/daughter is interested in this trip, please do discuss this with them and complete the Expression of Interest on Arbor. **As well as this** interested students need to collect an **application form** from **Dr Shaw in A17** which must be completed and returned **to Dr Shaw by 3pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

Once we have received Expressions of Interest, we will hold a parent information evening in January, which will provide further details of the itinerary, selection criteria and risk assessment.

Working with our schools' advisors Hampshire Outdoors, we operate based on 'informed parental consent' and a 'proportional approach'. This approach acknowledges the elevated and residual risks associated with an adventure activity of this nature, considering the standard of services or infrastructure typical of a developing country. This approach and the trip risk assessment will be explained during the information evening prior to submitting consent forms, and the school's final selection. After the parent information evening and final selection process, successful students will be required to pay a £600 deposit by **1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**. If you have any questions and would like to speak with Dr Shaw before the information evening, please do get in contact.

## December

Expression of Interest (EOI) on Arbor.  
Contact Dr Shaw if you have questions

Collect and complete paper application  
form (see Dr Shaw A17) – return by 3pm  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January** - Parent information  
evening for those who completed the EOI

**February** Parent/carer consent forms for  
applicants (after information evening)

**February** Review of student submissions  
and selection criteria

**13th February** Final list of successful applicants.  
Deposit for successful applicants required by **1<sup>st</sup>  
March**

Payments divided into bi-monthly instalments

Last year our team held a fun evening of Rwandan food and entertainment to raise money to purchase sports and educational equipment for the partner primary school in Maranyundo. The event was very much enjoyed by all - especially the students, who performed their own Rwandan traditional dance! Selected students for

the 2027 trip will take part in team meetings and fun team building activities in the lead up to the trip, including helping to organise and run another Rwanda fundraising evening – and, yes, this may well involve traditional dancing, artwork or cooking! These activities are an opportunity for developing leadership and team building and are a fantastic way for the group to get to know each other before we set off in January. We are a self-supporting group, with staff and students working together to build personal responsibility, care for each other and enjoy everything the trip has to offer safely and inclusively.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the submitted application form, including considered reasons for going, recognition of the opportunity and what you may gain from it, and any extra-curricular activities you are involved in that help others or develop skills, and the desire to broaden your horizons and develop new skills
- Student attitude and behaviour in school, achievements (academic or non-academic) and anything you do to help within school
- Willingness to get involved with school activities, helping at events, sports, in the classroom, music or other activities
- Fitness to travel as determined by a medical professional (as this affects insurance)
- Good self-care, awareness of the needs of others and a willingness to develop your personal skills and those of the team
- Government FCDO travel advice
- Parents are responsible for organising necessary vaccines

If your child has any special requirements of any nature, please do contact Dr Shaw as early as possible so that we can explore how we could support your child and ensure adequate supervision is possible. This is a developing country, and a few factors are outside of our control. We seek to engage with parents and students early, and last year we had an inclusive and diverse group who worked as a team to make this a safe enjoyable experience for all involved.

If your child would like to be considered, please log in to the Arbor app and provide your consent for expression of interest only. If you are using a mobile phone to view the app, please turn your device to landscape and scroll to the bottom right of the page, select Trips and a new screen will show you the trip your child is being offered. Choose the trip and follow the details to provide consent. The closing date is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm**. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium (or has been entitled to Free School Meals in the last 6 years), financial support may be available. In the first instance, please contact our Finance team at [finance@noadswood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance@noadswood.hants.sch.uk) for further information.

We do reserve the right to not proceed with the trip if numbers are too low. If this trip is oversubscribed, we will determine the places by a fair ballot and those who are unsuccessful will be notified. **We will confirm if your child has a place on the trip after the parent meeting in January 2026 and by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Once you have given consent for your child's interest in this trip, you will receive an email from Arbor; please note that this email does not guarantee a place on the trip.**



# Noadswood

Please could you check that your child's medical conditions are always all up to date on Arbor at all times. To add new medical conditions, please go to Arbor and click on your child's profile, scroll down to the Medical Section and click on the **+Add** in the top righthand corner. Once finished, please click the update button. If you need to update what we already have on file, click on your child's profile and scroll down to the Medical Section. Click on the existing condition to update. Any submissions for medical conditions will take a few days to appear on Arbor as they will be reviewed by the medical team.

We always take seriously our responsibility for the safety and welfare of our students. This raises particular issues when students are involved in an activity off-site. Before taking students away from the school site, we carry out a thorough risk assessment and take all necessary measures to minimize risks including arranging appropriate levels of supervision by responsible adults. We expect that students involved in the activity will cooperate fully with the arrangements made and follow closely the instructions of the responsible adults throughout the activity. We therefore reserve the right to refuse a place on the trip to any students where there has been a behaviour concern previously.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Heidi Shaw  
Maths and Science Teacher

**Student Testimony**

*"Going to Rwanda with my classmates was one of the best experiences that I have ever had. We did numerous activities, met loads of incredible people and created memories that will last us forever. It has shown me that there are things in life that we have to appreciate more and if I got to have an opportunity like this again I would do it without a second thought. Every day out there was an experience on their own, going to markets, seeing all the safari animals, going to different hotels and going to the school. I don't think there was ever a point where I was even slightly uninterested. If you ever had the chance to go to Rwanda you absolutely should, it changed my life"*

*Evan J, Current Year 11*