

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP  
Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: [enquiries@qegs.email](mailto:enquiries@qegs.email) Twitter: @qegs\_ashbourne  
Web: [www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Overseas Residential Trip: Turtle Conservation in Greece, July 2025; open to current Year 8 and current Year 9. Trip Leader: Ms K Watson-Jones**

It is with great excitement that I am writing to let you know about an opportunity to embark on a 10 day overseas residential trip to Greece to gain hands on experience with Turtle Conservation.

We are looking to plan this excursion for mid July 2025 (ideally from July 18<sup>th</sup> for 10 days), with a minimum of 20 and maximum of 30 students. Please note, students will then be in Year 10 and Year 11 at this point (for those students in Year 11, this trip will take place after GCSE examination have finished).

### **What is it?**

Spend 10 fantastic days of hands-on experience in turtle conservation in Kefalonia. At the camp in Kefalonia, you will be involved in a wide range of activities: from nest excavations and relocations, to morning and evening surveys and hatchling rescue (depending on the time of year). We will sleep under the stars and collect light pollution data, which is vital to ensuring that hatchlings do not head inland, but instead follow the moon out to sea as they should. We will learn about turtle anatomy, tracks, nesting sites and impacts of climate change on hatchling success rates. We will also be involved in marine conservation, learning how to protect the turtles and the anthropogenic impacts that are affecting their distribution and behaviours. We will also carry out Harbour monitoring; observing and interpreting turtle feeding behaviour and social interactions.

On top of this, we will spend a day or two exploring Athens, visiting the Parthenon, Acropolis and Acropolis Museum, the impressive Corinth Canal and birthplace of the Olympic Games.

### **Where is it?**

Greece; we will spend the majority of the time on a beach camp in Kefalonia (camping/tent accommodation with a camp bed), with 1 or 2 nights in a hotel in Athens to explore the Greek history and culture.

### **What type of activities will we be doing during the conservation project?**

You will watch the sun rise and look for turtle tracks from the night before, fully immersing yourself in the vital processes needed for this conservation work to be truly effective.

Identifying nests and relocations is a key part of what you will be doing on this particular project. You will learn how the nests are actively protected from predators and get to know the turtles' behaviour as well as its ecological importance.

You will also be looking at the human impact (anthropogenic) and how the fishing communities have changed the feeding behaviour of this turtle population.

### **Why do it?**

You will learn important transferable life skills, such as critical thinking, self-awareness building skills and problem-solving skills. You will also develop a deeper understanding of how your personal actions impact the planet and its inhabitants. You will gain invaluable, hands-on experience on this turtle conservation project, working with Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in their natural environment. Hands-on experiences like this are essential for those seeking a career in conservation but are equally valuable to those who will explore many other paths (such as geography, politics, languages, sciences etc).

**This is a once in a lifetime experience that will open your eyes to the importance of turtle and marine conservation.**

**Cost**

The cost for the project will be an estimated £2,000 per person (this includes all meals, accommodation and internal transfers, specialist UNESCO guides and turtle conservationists and return flights). There will be some funding available for eligible Pupil Premium students (please contact myself or Mrs Starkie by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July midday if you would like further information on this).

We appreciate that this is a significant cost for families, and hence we are providing at least 18 months for payment/instalments. This also gives us time to encourage and support all students to fundraise towards this cost too.

To secure a place on the trip, and to secure our dates for 2025, we will require a £75 deposit by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (this will be non-refundable unless we meet our minimum number of 20 students for the trip OR if there is a waiting list and someone else is able to take the place). Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will open up on ParentPay on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 5pm.

**If you are interested in joining us on this trip**

Please take a look at the webpage for further information; <https://flooglebinder.co.uk/greece>

Please email Ms Watson Jones ([watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)) if you would be interested in the trip and/or if you would like to attend an information evening about the trip with Ian Taylor, the founder of Floogle Binder, on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm (online via TEAMS).

Yours faithfully

Ms K Watson Jones

**Teacher of Science – Duke of Edinburgh Manager**

Email: [watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)