

Dear families

International Expedition Opportunities 2026/27

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity for Year 9 and Year 10 students across our Dixons schools in Bradford to participate in a life-changing international expedition during the 2026/27 academic year.

Through funding provided by the Turing Scheme, the UK Government's global learning programme delivered in conjunction with the Department for Education, students will have the opportunity to travel overseas, experience different cultures, develop valuable life skills and broaden their aspirations. These experiences are designed to be transformational, helping young people develop confidence, resilience, independence and a greater understanding of the world around them.

We are proud to be working in partnership with Challenges Abroad, an experienced educational travel provider, to deliver these exciting international opportunities.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are open to all Year 9 and Year 10 students attending Dixons McMillan, Dixons Kings, Dixons Allerton, Dixons Trinity, Dixons City and Dixons Cottingley Academy.

There are 33 student places available on each expedition, providing a total of 132 places across the programme. Should applications exceed the number of places available, allocations will be made on a first come, first served basis. We therefore encourage interested students and families to apply promptly once applications open.

The costs of attending one of these expeditions are provisional at present and final amounts will be confirmed once flights have been booked. It is anticipated the current cost will be around **£1450** per place. – The final price will be confirmed once flights are booked.

What Will Students Experience?

Regardless of destination, all expeditions are designed around three key themes: cultural immersion, community engagement and global citizenship.

Through cultural immersion, students will experience rich cultures, traditions and beliefs, learn about local life and traditional cuisine, connect with welcoming communities and build meaningful relationships through genuine cultural exchange.

Working alongside local partners, students will support long-term, community-led programmes, deliver workshops and activities in local schools, work with communities to create sustainable change and learn how these projects can empower future generations.

These experiences will also help students become global citizens. They will challenge their perspectives by encountering different cultures and ways of life, develop confidence by stepping outside their comfort zones, build lifelong skills in communication, teamwork and leadership, and reflect on their role in creating a more connected and sustainable world.

Expedition Opportunities

Peru - 2 April to 18 April 2027

Students travelling to Peru will:

- Experience Andean traditions, local communities and everyday Peruvian life.
- Explore breathtaking mountain landscapes, historic towns and markets.
- Visit Machu Picchu, one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites.
- Develop their understanding of Peru's rich history, culture and heritage.

Tanzania - 2 April to 18 April 2027

Students travelling to Tanzania will:

- Experience the warmth and vibrancy of Tanzanian culture and community life.
- Work alongside local schools and communities
- Embark on a safari and encounter Africa's iconic wildlife in its natural habitat.
- Explore Tanzania's incredible landscapes, from mountains to open plains.
- Gain first-hand experience of community-led development initiatives.

Cambodia - 21 May to 6 June 2027

Students travelling to Cambodia will:

- Discover Cambodia's heritage and vibrant modern culture.
- Connect with local communities and schools in rural areas.
- Participate in projects that support education and sustainable community development.
- Learn about Cambodian traditions, customs and everyday life.
- Explore Angkor Wat and the remarkable temples of the Angkor complex.

Thailand - 21 May to 6 June 2027

Students travelling to Thailand will:

- Build connections with local schools and communities through shared experiences.
- Experience authentic Thai food, crafts and traditions.
- Spend time learning about elephants and their importance within Thai culture.
- Explore ancient temples and the natural beauty of Northern Thailand.
- Develop confidence and independence through cultural exchange and international travel.

Information Evening

To help families understand more about the programme, we will be holding an online information evening:

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2026

Time: 4.30pm to 5.15pm

Location: This can be accessed online via the following link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/391727062859156?p=T7DrpoY9Xff7nHReV7>

A member of staff from Dixons will be available to explain the programme in more detail, provide information about the destinations and answer any questions that students or families may have.

How to Apply

You need to express your interest by Friday 16 October by completing the form below.

Application link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/fmvH3Mwpki>

Families will be notified shortly afterwards whether their child has successfully secured one of the available places.

Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee a place. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and are subject to availability.

Deposit, Payments and Fundraising

The Turing Scheme covers a significant proportion of the overall cost of each expedition. Students who are successfully offered a place will be required to pay an **initial deposit of £250** to secure their participation.

Following confirmation of places, families will receive full details of the payment schedule and available instalment plan.

These expeditions are much more than overseas visits. They provide students with an opportunity to develop confidence, resilience, leadership, cultural awareness and independence through authentic experiences that many young people would not otherwise have access to.

We are incredibly proud to be able to offer these opportunities through the Turing Scheme and hope that many of our students will take this opportunity to broaden their horizons, develop new skills and create memories that will last a lifetime.

If you have any questions, please email expeditions@dixonsat.com

We look forward to welcoming interested students and families to the information evening.

Yours faithfully

Jason Patterson

School and College Trust Leader

