



February 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

We hope your child is looking forward to our expedition to Honduras this summer with Operation Wallacea.

As we get closer to travel, we have a considerable amount of information to share with you. Please read through this and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries. We will also be having a parent and student trip meeting in April/May and will share the date once confirmed.

This letter includes:

- Flight Information
- Visa Information
- Vaccinations
- Kit List
- Operation Wallacea Portal Paperwork

## Flight Information

Our flights have now been booked to allow us to be in Honduras for our expedition which runs from 17<sup>th</sup> July until 31<sup>st</sup> July. Please be aware that this means that the trip departure date has moved forward to **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July** and we will be returning to the UK on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August**.

DEPARTURE AIRPORT	DEPARTURE DATE*	DEPARTURE TIME*	ARRIVAL AIRPORT	ARRIVAL DATE*	ARRIVAL TIME*	FLIGHT NUMBER
LHR	15-Jul	10:25	IAH	15-Jul	14:40	UA879
IAH	16-Jul	18:25	SPS	16-Jul	20:17	UA432
SPS	31-Jul	06:16	IAH	31-Jul	10:10	UA1237
IAH	31-Jul	16:30	LHR	01-Aug	07:40	UA880

\*All dates and times are local to the relevant country.

You will be notified in advance of any schedule changes made by airlines prior to your departure date.

We will confirm our meeting time for departure and will give an estimated arrival time closer to the trip. Please be aware that our travel includes an overnight in Houston on our outward journey.

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## Visa

For the trip students require a pre-check visa for Honduras and an American ESTA, for travel.

**Pre-check Visa for Honduras** - <https://prechequeo.inm.gob.hn/Login>. This must be completed in advance of travel.

**ESTAs** – <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> All students must have an American ESTA. This is required to be able to travel through America, once approved the ESTA is valid for a period of two years, or until the passport expires, whichever comes first. Please apply for this individually and share with us once the ESTA has been approved.

Please be aware that it is your responsibility to complete the Visa & ESTA and the school cannot be responsible for incorrect/invalid Visas.

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## Vaccinations

It is vital that every participant visits their doctor or travel clinic at least 2 months prior to departure in order to get the latest advice on vaccinations and medications for the region.

The following vaccination advice is from the NHS Fit for Travel website:

<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/central-america/honduras>

**All Travellers** - Travellers should be up to date with routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK. These vaccinations include for example MMR vaccine and diphtheria-tetanus-polio vaccine.

It is recommended that all travellers should have up to date vaccinations, at least 2 months prior to travel:

- Hepatitis A
- Tetanus
- Typhoid

**Covid 19:** It is recommended that participants are fully vaccinated against COVID, particularly because we will work in remote locations where the local communities may not have been offered the vaccine and medical facilities may be more limited.

The **Rabies** vaccination is not required as we are not handling animals, as per the Operation Wallacea guidance.

A **yellow fever** vaccination is not required for Honduras, unless you have recently travelled through a yellow fever zone.

**Malaria and Dengue:** are both present in Honduras but at a low risk in particular areas. Your health professional may recommend you take malaria prophylactics and you should follow their advice. There are no prophylactics available to protect against Dengue. The best form of protection against both diseases is to prevent mosquito bites as much as possible. You can do this by wearing long sleeved clothing, particularly in the mornings and evenings, and by having a good insect repellent (see kit list for repellent advice).

If you are diving and are given Lariam as a prophylaxis please ask for an alternative. You cannot dive on Lariam and anyone taking it will not be allowed to dive on site.

**Zika** is also present. As with dengue there is no prophylaxis available and so the best way of reducing risk is to cover up to protect yourself against mosquito bites.

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### **Kit List**

Operation Wallacea provide a detailed kit list for our trip, please visit:

<https://www.opwall.com/resource/honduras-schools-kit-list/>

Please note that our luggage allowance is a maximum of 23kgs and most importantly the students will need to be able to carry their kit comfortably.

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### **Operation Wallacea Portal**

Students and parents/carers need to complete the paperwork on the Operation Wallacea Portal. This includes important pieces of information such as medical information and emergency contacts. This information needs to be submitted online at <http://portal.opwall.com>.

Students should register and log in with their Edgbarrow email address. All personal details and PADI forms **MUST** be submitted via the portal. **ONCE** your child has completed the portal, all parents/carers should also then register on the portal (using the primary email address held on file by school) and provide your consent to the information provided.

Operation Wallacea Privacy notice: *These contact details will never be issued to a third party and do not contravene data protection laws. It is vital for our information gathering and many parents find it extremely useful.*

To support students in completing the portal we are running a support session on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February in IT 1** at 3.30pm where we will work through the portal together. Students will need to have their passport information (we can provide a copy) and medical information if they attend the portal session. Please encourage your student to attend!

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### **Useful Website Links**

Overview and Facilities: <https://www.opwall.com/expeditions/school-expedition/honduras/>

Health and Safety Documents: <https://www.opwall.com/resource/honduras-health-and-safety/>

Travel Advice and Visas: <https://www.opwall.com/resource/honduras-travel/>

Kit List: <https://www.opwall.com/resource/honduras-schools-kit-list/>

Vaccinations: <https://www.opwall.com/resource/honduras-vaccinations/>

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

Mrs Rice: [Vicky.Rice@edgbarrowschool.co.uk](mailto:Vicky.Rice@edgbarrowschool.co.uk)

Miss Pilgrim: [Emma.Pilgrim@edgbarrowschool.co.uk](mailto:Emma.Pilgrim@edgbarrowschool.co.uk)

We hope that the students fundraising is going well and that they are looking forward to our trip.

Kind regards



**Miss Pilgrim & Mrs Rice**  
**Trip Coordinators**