



Faringdon Community College
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UGANDA VISIT 2025

Dear Parent

I am in the process of organising our annual FCC 6th Form trip to Uganda. This is a school trip like no other. It really is one of those proverbial trips of a lifetime, but it is important that as a parent you understand the risks involved before you give permission for your child to go.

The trip is very much a learning experience in many different ways.
We will be away for 2 weeks around October half term.
Provisional dates at the moment are from 16th October to the 29th October.

We will spend 3/4 days working in our partner school, Kazo Hill College School, 1 day in a kindergarten and other activities include a visit to the Equator, and a 3-day Safari to Murchison Falls National Park.

As the itinerary is not yet fixed, clearly neither can the cost be, but the 2024 costs are below to give you an idea

£2,400= flight/transport in UK and Uganda, accommodation, safari, hoodie
£200-300 = spending money for food and souvenirs
£240 = vaccinations and malaria tablets (excluding Rabies)
\$50 = Visa paid for in advance

Note: some costs are in US\$ and all costs are approximate at the moment.

Typically, the activities undertaken would be:

5 days in our partner school.

Safari (3/4 days)

- (a) Rhino Trek
- (b) Game Drive
- (c) Boat Trip up the Nile

Trip to Equator (half a day)

Sightseeing Kampala and Craft Market

Cultural evening

Perhaps the most important thing for you to consider as parents are the risks involved. This will be my eighth trip to Uganda. I have always felt completely safe and comfortable, but the risks are real. It is not like a trip to Europe. I use a good company to organise our transport, but the buses are not new, there is no MOT in Uganda, there are seat belts which usually work but the roads can be very poor and sometimes do not have tarmac. (Note there are virtually no new vehicles in Uganda, all are imported second hand from Japan). It is a developing country and as such the infrastructure and regulations are well below our expectations. Other health and safety issues we have more control of, e.g. taking malaria tablets, drinking bottled water etc.

A comprehensive risk assessment is completed but in a developing country it is about minimising risk not eliminating them.



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FCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and individuals.

Headteacher: Jonathan Dennett. Chair of Governors: Paul Ray

Cambrian Learning Trust is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee.

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All the students I will be taking will be seventeen or eighteen years of age. I expect them to take individual and group responsibility in terms of their behaviour. It would not be appropriate to take students who still need to be 'looked after', having said that we only do things as a group.

Our accommodation will be Red Chilli Hideaway, <https://redchillihideaway.com/> a good backpacker's lodge, in pleasant, secure grounds in Kampala. However, in Africa there can be occasions where things do not work properly, and the students need to be aware of this. At Kazo Hill School, the toilets are not of western standard and there will be an element of 'roughing it' on the trip.

I will be holding a meeting with students who are interested in attending on Thursday 5 December 2024 in Lab F at 12.30pm to talk further about the itinerary.

If, having attended the meeting, your child would like to come on this trip, please complete the online form before 9am on Monday 13 January <https://forms.office.com/e/BfbecqygU2>

Once we have established how many students would like to go, we will require a £250 non-refundable deposit so that flights can be booked. I need to have flexibility to do this as soon as I can find airfares which present the best value. I would expect this to be around January/February 2025.

We organise the trip ourselves and so the final commitment about going is not made until the deposit for your child's place is paid.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this trip, please feel free to contact me at college or via email at SMDickenson@fcc.cambrianlt.org

It is an amazing trip, and I look forward to taking your child.

Miss S Dickenson
Head of Science



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