Richard Lander School

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Headteacher - Steve Mulcahy BA (Hons)

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Thailand Trip: Summer 2028

When your child is in year 10, they will have the opportunity to go on a month's long (32 days) trip to Thailand. This will be an amazing trip, creating memories which will last a lifetime.

The trip will take place towards the end of the summer term, so parents who sign their child up for the trip will have almost 2 years to make payments for this.

The trip will cost in the region of £4,300. (Whilst we do not anticipate the cost of the trip will rise, this is dependent on confirmation of flight and scuba diving costs. Any savings made will be returned to parents.)

The Thailand trip will be the trip of a lifetime and will include the following itinerary:

1. **A 3 day visit to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand which will include:**
    a) A visit to the Grand Palace, which is Thailand's premier tourist attraction
    b) A visit to Wat Pho – the site of the 'Reclining Buddha' – another major tourist attraction which hosts a gold plated statue of the Buddha which is 15 metres high and 46 metres long
    c) A visit to Wat Arun – an ancient temple in Bangkok and one of Thailand's most visited temples
    d) A sightseeing river cruise around Bangkok which includes stopping off at places to explore the further beauty in Bangkok
    e) A visit to a night market or major shopping mall
    f) Staying at a premier hotel in Bangkok, complete with swimming pool and health related fitness centre

2. **Students will spend 9-10 days on the beautiful island of Koh Tao, in the south of Thailand. Koh Tao is a mecca for international scuba diving. There, students will:**
    a) Take their PADI 'Open Water' scuba diving qualification over a period of 3 days and become a qualified scuba diver. This will include diving to a depth of 18 metres, where students will see an abundance of beautiful sea life and coral reef.
    b) Have 2-4 days' worth of 'fun dives' once qualified
    c) (Rather than have days' 'fun diving', some students may instead choose to take the next PADI scuba diving qualification: the 2 day PADI 'Advanced Open Water' qualification. This will qualify students to descend to 30 metres, and will include a night dive under professional supervision. This can be discussed separately and an additional charge will be made for the PADI Advanced qualification.)

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International School Award
Good diabetes care in school Diabetes UK
School Games Silver
Tassomai Star School 2019
Sugar Smart Change 4 Life
Healthy Schools

d) Have a day's snorkelling with the island's premier snorkelling tour operator, where the focus will be on visiting beaches inaccessible to diving boats, where students may get to see turtles and reef sharks (very friendly reef sharks!)
e) Have further 'beach days' as a group
f) Visit Koh Tao's secondary school where school to school links will be made and hopefully play a mixed competitive game of football or beach volleyball
g) Spend an afternoon taking a Thai cooking class
h) Spend an afternoon visiting a sustainable farm and making eco-friendly soap
i) Enjoy the culture, restaurants and the nightlife Koh Tao is famous for, under the supervision of staff

The PADI Open Water diving qualification is an internationally recognised scuba diving qualification, which in the UK would cost over £500 alone. Once qualified, this will enable students to scuba dive anywhere in the world. Many of the students who take this course will no doubt progress to further scuba diving qualifications in the future.

3. **Students will also spend 2-3 days on the beautiful island of Koh Samui**, visiting some of the island's cultural attractions; they will visit the famous 'pig island', snorkel among coral reefs in crystal clear waters and visit local night markets.

4. **Students will spend 13-14 days visiting the Chiang Mai region in the north of Thailand**, where they will:
   a) Go on a 3 day trek in the northern Thai mountainous rainforest, sleeping in local hill tribe villages. Depending on river conditions, this trip may also involve a morning's bamboo raft ride
   b) Visit an elephant sanctuary
   c) Visit a refugee school in the Thai rainforest for 2 days, working/playing alongside Thai children
   d) Take part in a Thai cookery class, learning how to make popular Thai dishes
   e) Take part in a meditation workshop led by a Buddhist monk
   f) Take part in a traditional Thai umbrella painting workshop
   g) Take part in a Muay Thai martial arts workshop where specific techniques will be developed – not actual combat. (Muay Thai is Thailand's most popular sport).
   h) Attend a professional Muay Thai evening event, where they will watch 7-10 competitive bouts. This will take place in one of Chiang Mai's largest Muay Thai arenas
   i) Visit a variety of Thai restaurants including one which has a traditional Thai dancing performance
   j) Go to a themed water park which also has wakeboarding and high jumping platforms (8 metres and 10 metres)
   k) Visit the famous 'carp café'
   l) Go to a 'king cobra snake charming show'
   m) Visit some of the region's most revered temples
   n) Visit local evening markets, which sell Thai arts & crafts

The trip will quite simply be a magical experience and we hope that it will inspire students to do further travel in the future.

The trip will depart at some point in early to mid-July and will last in the region of 32 days, also taking up the first fortnight or so of the school holidays.

The cost for the trip will be in the region of £4,300. (This price may go up or down pending costs of flights and scuba courses. The cost includes all aspects of the trip including flight costs, accommodation, food, wider activities, the PADI Open Water qualification plus the further fun dives.

The following payment structure will be put in place for students who may wish to join this trip:

1. November 18th 2026: £100 (deposit)
2. February 1st 2027: £300
3. March 1st 2027: £300
4. April 1st 2027: £300
5. May 1st 2027: £300
6. June 1st 2027: £300
7. July 1st 2027: £300
8. August 1st 2027: £300
9. September 1st 2027: £300
10. October 1st 2027: £300
11. November 1st 2027: £300
12. January 1st 2028: £300
13. February 1st 2028: £300
14. March 1st 2028: £300
15. April 1st 2028: £300

I will be leading a parents' presentation evening in the school's Staff Room at **6.30pm on Wednesday 4th November 2026** for any parent who wishes to learn more about the Thailand 2028 trip. This date is well before the deadline date for the first payment to be made, to give parents plenty of consideration time. (Please enter school via the main school entrance.)

First Payment Deadline Date: **November 18th 2026** (£100 deposit).

Places on the trip will be limited to 45 students.

Registering an Interest:
Any parent who wishes to express an interest in their child going on this trip of a lifetime should either use the Microsoft Form link below to do so, or email Mrs Claire Barnes at her email address below by **Friday 23rd October 2026**.

Foreign Residential Trips 2028 – Fill out form

CBarnes@richardlander.cornwall.sch.uk

Additionally, parents may register an interest in their child's participation by using the reply slip below. This should be returned to Mrs Claire Barnes at the main school reception.

(We don't mind which of the 3 types of registering parents use – so long as parents register using one of them.)

Registering an interest does not commit your child to going; rather it gives the school an early indication of numbers. We invite all parents who have registered an interest to attend the parents' information evening on Wednesday 4th November 2026.

Students who take part in this 4+ week trip should have a record of good school behaviour and attendance. If there are any questions in this regard, please email them to Mrs Barnes for my attention.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Mulcahy

Headteacher

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Thailand Trip 2028 Reply Slip:

I wish to register my interest in my child going on the Thailand 2028 school trip:

Name of parent: _____

Name of your child: _____

Tutor group of your child: _____

Please ask your child to return this form to Mrs Barnes at the school's Main Reception.