



BEECHEN
CLIFF



Sixth Form Transylvania Expedition October 2019

Destination: Reghin, Transylvania

Dates: 26th October - 2nd November 2019 (subject to flight availability)

Cost: £800 for flight, food, transport, accommodation etc

Deadline: £100 deposit required by **Friday 14th December 2018**

We are inviting students to apply for the Transylvania Expedition 2019 taking place next October. This is part of a larger, long-term project run by *People Against Poverty*, a British charity seeking to change the lives of poor and disadvantaged communities around the world.

In Transylvania a large proportion of the population are Roma ("Gypsies"). They are ostracised, extremely poor, live in appalling conditions in shanty villages. As a consequence, many children in these communities have lives that most of us in Bath can not begin to imagine. *People Against Poverty* are working closely with one such community to break the poverty/crime/marginalised cycle with a particular emphasis on giving children a sense of hope and aspiration. The work includes supporting the development of an orphanage/children's home, a kindergarden and an after-school club. A large plot of land has been bought with the purpose of developing it into a farm that provides food, employment, income and purpose - providing an alternative to a life of begging and crime.

The mission of this trip is for students to help develop the farm infrastructure. During the trip students will take a full and active part in developing the farm by constructing a key farm building such as a hay barn, tractor shed, poly tunnels, chicken coops, shepherd huts or other structures that will help the families of this community to become more self-sufficient. Another key aspect of the trip is for students to spend some time in one of the Roma shanty villages, running activities in the after-school club/kindergarden and to make accompanied home visits to get a real sense of the plight of people in these communities. The trip finishes with a Land Rover Defender off-road trip through the Transylvanian/Carpathian mountains to enjoy the exquisitely beautiful countryside and medieval towns and to stay in mountain-top hostel at 2000 metres.

This will be Beechen Cliff's fourth such trip. They have a long and strong track record with other local schools and have proved to be extremely rewarding. They allow students to understand in more depth, the level of poverty and desperation that many in our world face and also provide an insight into the social and political background that caused the plight of the rural poor in Romania. Furthermore, students are able to work alongside families in poorer areas, to build relationships and to consider the key challenges and issues faced in development work. The project requires initiative, commitment, hard work and empathy.

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If you are interested:

1. Complete the application form before the deadline of **Friday 14th December** and via ParentPay provide a £100 deposit to *Romania 2019*.

It may be helpful to visit the *People Against Poverty* website www.peopleagainstopoverty.com before making a decision: follow the *Our Work* and *Projects in Romania* links and you will find a slide show and video about the projects. There are also two youtube videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laRwD0EAyE4&t=125s>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PeopleagainstPoverty/featured>

You can also get in touch with Mr Watts (Paul.Watts@beechencliff.org.uk) with any questions.

2. A selection process and interviews may be necessary if the trip is over-subscribed.
3. Once the team is selected, an information evening for parents and students will be arranged – this will be arranged for **31st January 2019 at 6:30 pm - this is the same night as the L6th Parents' Evening**.
4. **Fundraising:** In addition to the trip costs for the flight, food, accommodation etc, students are given a target of £420 to raise in advance of the trip. This money goes towards the material costs of the project work eg timber, cladding, sheeting materials, tools etc To help in this activity we organise group fundraising events to get students started – last year the group organised Christmas Jumper Day, Battle of the Bands and a Quiz & Curry Night – which raised most of the money leaving a little over £100 for students to raise individually. This remaining money can raised by completing, for example, a sponsored bike ride, supermarket bag-packing, making and selling cakes in the Sixth Form Centre etc. We will help with ideas and monitor progress; however the main responsibility lies with the individual student together with parental support.
5. The expenses of the trip is approximately, £800, covers all aspects of trip (flights, food, accommodation, insurance, transport) and we will ask for staged payments throughout the year to help spread the cost.

Yours sincerely



Paul Watts
Deputy Headmaster & Trip Organiser



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Application Form

Please return to the school office before **Friday 14th December** with a ParentPay deposit of £100.00 to *Romania 2019*.

Student Name	
Tutor Group	
Parent's e-mail address	
Student's e-mail address	
Student passport name (as on the passport)	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Passport number	
Issue date on passport	
Expiry date on passport	

Parent Support

As Parent/Guardian of the above student, I have read the details of the project and understand the financial commitment involved. I fully support my child's application should he/she be selected for the project and know of no medical or other reason why it would not be appropriate.

Parent Signature Print Name.....