



Raleigh links with London Challenge to support school improvement

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Leading youth and education charity Raleigh is partnering London Challenge in taking 20 London-based Year-11 students to India this July.

The group – all pupils at Welling School, Bexley, London – will undertake a 21 day expedition in Karnataka; with an emphasis on pupils' personal development through community work and an arduous trek.

Welling School's trip has been facilitated by funding Raleigh received from youth volunteering charity v. Welling School, currently in special measures, is working with London Challenge – the Government scheme to improve under-performing secondary schools in greater London.

The expedition is part of a unique scheme run by Raleigh to encourage school age pupils to volunteer to raise their aspirations and improve their confidence and self-esteem. It will be run on the same principles as Raleigh's five and ten week expeditions; and the pupils will be responsible for managing their own building project, working as a team with the local community and living in self-sufficient camp conditions. It is hoped that the community project will see the pupils build compostable toilets to improve water sanitation, and that the pupils will also undertake a six day trek – carrying all their own equipment and supplies.

"This will be a unique and very rewarding experience for these young people at Welling School" commented Stacey Adams, Chief Executive at Raleigh. "The pupils will visit remote parts of India that they may never have the chance to see again and will learn first hand the importance of clean water and sanitation in the developing world. They will also learn a huge amount about themselves and each other as we push them to the limits both physically and emotionally. Raleigh is real journey!"

John Atkins, Executive Head at Welling School, added: "We are thrilled that Raleigh, v and London Challenge have given our students the opportunity to go on this expedition. It's not only a once in a lifetime opportunity for the group – their new skills and experiences will benefit the whole Welling School community."

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Notes to Editors:

Raleigh



Raleigh is a youth and education charity. Since 1984 our expeditions have inspired 30,000 people from all walks of life, nationalities and ages to be all they can be, helping them develop new skills, friendships and make a difference to communities and environments across the world.

We all have an expedition inside us. Find yours at www.raleighinternational.org

London Challenge

London Challenge was launched in 2003, and aims to improve secondary schools within Greater London. The programme will run until 2011. The London Challenge is led by Andrew Adonis, Minister for London Schools and Sir Mike Tomlinson, Chief Adviser for London Schools. It is delivered in partnership with schools, the 33 Greater London local authorities, and all those working in education in the city.

v

v is an independent charity set up in 2006 to champion youth volunteering. Its aim is to inspire a new generation of young people aged 16-25 to volunteer. To do this **v** is working to increase the quantity, quality and diversity of volunteering opportunities available to young people. It is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.