

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Trips Brochure

2026 – 2027





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TRIP PROGRAMME

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This Trip Brochure showcases the range of exciting opportunities planned for pupils in the Boys' Division over the coming years. It is designed to help families make well-informed choices, with each trip including an indicative cost.

Our trips programme gives pupils the chance to explore different parts of the world, immerse themselves in new cultures, broaden their horizons and grow in confidence and independence. Through these shared experiences, pupils develop curiosity, resilience, teamwork and a deeper understanding of the world around them. We hope that many of our pupils will choose to take part in the trips offered, as they form an invaluable part of a rich and balanced education at Bolton School.

Trips open to specific age groups will be communicated to parents via email, along with a request for an expression of interest. Parents will then be invited to pay a deposit. If a trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated using a random selection process, with a waiting list created where necessary.

All trips featured in this brochure are planned to take place over the next few years. However, if pupil numbers are too low, a trip may not run. Equally, if costs rise to a point where a trip no longer represents good value for money, it may be revised or, in some cases, replaced with an alternative destination.

Having been fortunate to lead several major school trips, I can confidently say that these experiences are exciting, life-enhancing and truly memorable. The friendships formed and memories created on school trips often become some of the most enduring and defining moments of a student's time at school.

Mr Paul Newbold
Assistant Head

CLASSICS TRIP

BOLTON
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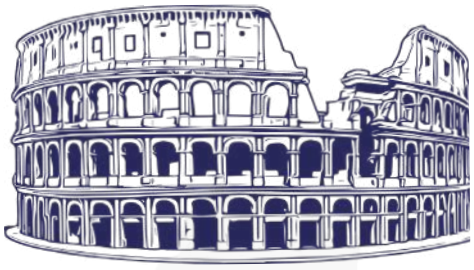
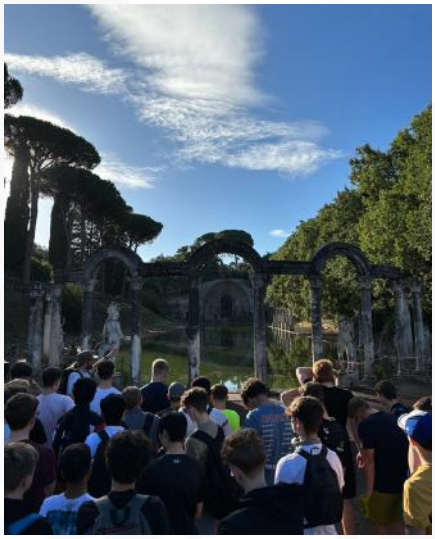
Date: October Half-Term 2027 (biennial)
Venue: Rome and the Bay of Naples, Italy
Duration: 6 nights
Year Group(s): 8–11 (Years 10–13 at time of the trip)
Approximate Cost: £950
Trip Leader: Mr D Lamb



This culturally rich and academically enriching trip alternates between Italy and Greece every two years. During our days in Rome, the Eternal City, students explore iconic sites including the Colosseum, the ancient Roman Forum, the Pantheon and many statues, mosaics and frescoes. We move beyond the curriculum by visiting religious and cultural sites such as St Peter's Basilica, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and the Monument of Victor Emmanuel.





We then travel south to the Bay of Naples, stopping at a variety of sites along the way: the sprawling country estate of the Emperor Hadrian, the picturesque gardens of Tivoli and Montecassino Abbey, the site of heavy fighting during WWII.

Our base for this part of the trip is Sorrento, a charming and welcoming town on the world-famous Amalfi Coast. From here, with Mount Vesuvius dominating the skyline, students are ideally placed to explore the remarkable ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, climb Mount Vesuvius itself, and enjoy some evening sightseeing and souvenir shopping (including some excellent gelato).



Evening entertainment will be organised closer to the time, but typically includes quiz nights, an evening stroll through tourist shops, seeing the Trevi Fountain with night-time illumination and visits to a traditional pizzeria and gelateria.

CLIMBING TRIP

BOLTON
SCHOOL
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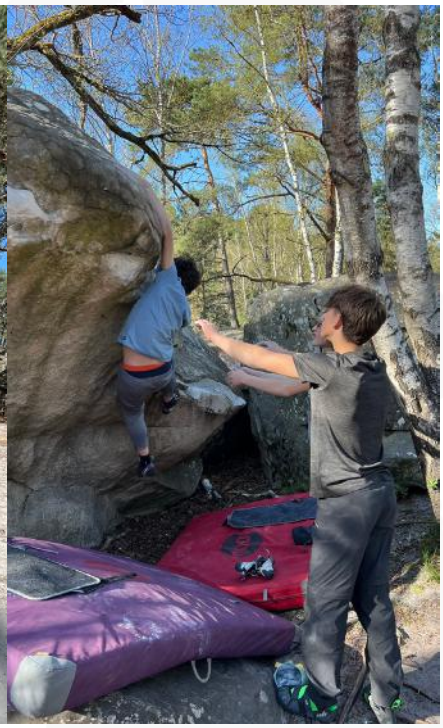
Date: Easter 2027
Venue: Fontainebleau, France
Duration: 5 nights
Year Group(s): 7–11
Approximate Cost: £600
Trip Leader: Mr D Kettle



Students travel by school vehicle to the Forest of Fontainebleau, just south of Paris, one of the world's most renowned bouldering venues. Here, we set up camp, where pupils share a tent with another student. There is also a communal cook tent where they work together to look after one another and do all the jobs around camp, developing valuable life skills along the way.

Days start around 8.00 a.m. with the aim to leave camp as near to 9.00 a.m. as possible to maximise the amount of time for bouldering. During the trip, we visit world-famous bouldering venues such as L'Elephant and Franchard Isati, providing students with the opportunity to climb some of the finest boulder problems in the world. This trip is a must for any avid climber or boulderer.





CREATIVE WRITING RETREAT

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: February Half Term 2027
Venue: Patterdale Hall, Ullswater
Duration: 3 nights
Year Group(s): 7–13
Approximate Cost: £375
Trip Leader: Ms N Lord



This residential Creative Writing Retreat offers pupils an immersive opportunity to develop their writing skills in one of the UK's most inspiring natural landscapes. Set in the heart of the Lake District, the retreat combines structured workshops, outdoor creative activities and dedicated personal writing time in a supportive, focused environment.

Pupils will explore a range of writing forms and approaches, building confidence, creativity and technical skill while working collaboratively with peers, specialist staff and visiting writers. During the retreat, pupils can expect to take part in:

- Writing workshops across poetry, prose and dramatic writing;
- Outdoor and site-inspired writing, using the landscape as a stimulus;
- Guided walks with creative tasks focused on imagery, rhythm, character and narrative;
- Structured independent writing time;
- Group discussion, sharing and constructive feedback;
- Evening creative activities and reflection.

Workshops are designed to encourage experimentation, discussion and personal expression, with appropriate challenge for different age groups.



DTE TRIP

BOLTON
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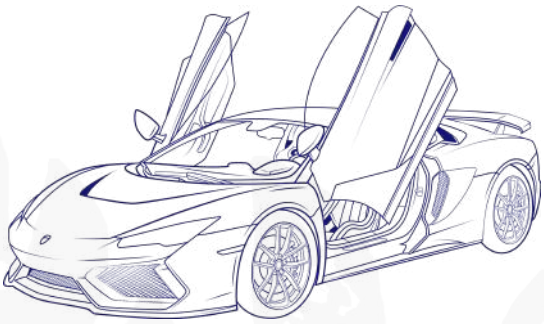
Date: October Half Term 2027
Venue: Bologna
Duration: 3 nights
Year Group(s): 9–11
Approximate Cost: £1,500
Trip Leader: Mrs A Ebden



The DTE department will take students to the centre of the luxury car world with a trip to Bologna, Italy. We will fly from Manchester and stay in a central hotel.

During the trip, students will visit the Pagani, Ducati, Ferrari and Lamborghini museums, each including a guided tour. They will also visit the Carpigiani gelato factory, where they will have the opportunity to make their own ice cream. In addition, students will enjoy a guided walking tour of Bologna.

This promises to be a fast-paced, fun-packed, educational visit, perfect for students interested in design, technology, engineering and luxury cars!







ESTONIA/RUSSIAN TRIP

BOLTON SCHOOL
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Date: Easter 2027 (biennial)
Venue: Estonia & Latvia
Year Group(s): 9, 10, 12 & 13 (Russian students only)
Duration: 3 nights
Approximate Cost: £1,450
Trip Leader: Mr N Wyatt



Every other Easter, those studying Russian in Years 9–13 have the opportunity to visit Estonia and Latvia. Owing to the countries' proximity to Russia, as well as their violent histories as part of both the Russian Empire and Soviet Union, a quarter of both populations identify as ethnically Russian, and over half speak Russian fluently. The visit takes in the ancient capital cities Tallinn (Estonia) and Riga (Latvia), both beautiful, diverse, vibrant destinations offering myriad opportunities for cultural and linguistic enrichment.



We look to include visits to the Gulag Museum; Riga and Tallinn waterfronts; an outdoor museum of Soviet statues; some delicious restaurants, as well as morning Russian classes. These classes are specially designed to extend our curriculum, and to prepare pupils for GCSE and A Level examinations respectively, giving our programme a healthy balance between academic study, culture and a holiday. The trip follows two schedules, with those in Years 9 and 10 having a little more structure than those in Years 12 and 13, who, as Sixth Formers, are afforded more independence and additional academic sessions.

FESTIVE OUTDOOR LEARNING

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: December 2026
Venue: Patterdale Hall, Ullswater
Duration: 2 nights
Year Group(s): 7–12 (restrictions apply)
Approximate Cost: £300
Trip Leader: Mr S Bradley



Previously a Paddlesports trip, from 2026, this will become the annual Patterdale Outdoor Learning Christmas Trip. With all Outdoor Learning activities represented at a fantastic end-of-term trip, pupils will be able to share tall tales across the table while eating an amazing Christmas dinner. Pupils who paddle, sail, mountain bike, and climb will be invited.





FOOTBALL TOUR

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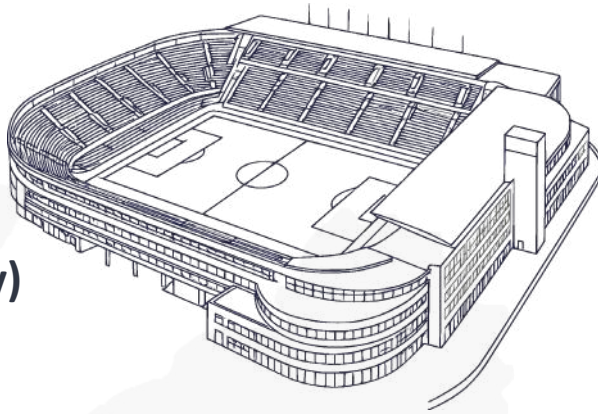

Date: Easter 2027 (biennial)
Venue: TBC
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 8–9 (Football Squads only)
Approximate Cost: £1,200
Trip Leader: Mr M Chilton

The Lower School Football Tour has run, for many years, usually on a biennial basis. Currently open to our U13 and U14 (Year 8-9) Football squads, the tour gives students the opportunity to visit a major European city famed for its footballing links. Recently this has included Barcelona and Madrid, Lisbon and Amsterdam.

As well as playing competitive fixtures against local opposition, there is also the chance to visit professional football clubs, including the chance to watch live professional matches. The five-day trip also allows students to experience various cultural excursions and activities including museum visits, bowling and beach days!





FRENCH TRIP (JUNIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: End June 2027
Venue: Normandy, France
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 7
Approximate Cost: £800
Trip Leader: Mrs J Cotton



Château de la Baudonnière

The French Department is excited to offer students in Year 7 the opportunity to participate in a French language residential trip. This annual school trip is always a highlight of the school year and is a fantastic way to round off the first year with their new friends.

This trip is open to all Year 7 Boys' Division students and is designed to bring language learning to life. Pupils will stay at a dedicated French language centre, Château de la Baudonnière, run by Voyager School Travel, where they will be fully immersed in the language and culture. The experience will include a combination of on-site activities and local excursions, all led in French by trained native-speaking animateurs. Excursions will include a tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mont Saint-Michel and a visit to the D-Day landing beaches. Every evening, there will be games, quizzes and sports, all led by a French speaker. By interacting with French speakers in real-life contexts, students will build their vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and gain greater confidence in their spoken French.



Activities are designed to support the curriculum in an enjoyable, informal setting that encourages communication and understanding. While the trip will benefit transition to Year 8 French, it will be equally enjoyable for those boys choosing to study Spanish instead.

FRENCH TRIP (SENIOR)

BOLTON
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Date: October Half Term 2027 (biennial)
Venue: Avignon/Nice TBC
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 9–10 (French students only)
Approximate Cost: £1,000 TBC
Trip Leader: Mrs J Cotton

The French Department is delighted to offer students the opportunity to spend four nights and five days in either Avignon or Nice in October Half-Term of 2027. This biennial visit will enable students to improve their French, while experiencing a city that is renowned for its history and culture, representing a genuine study break and learning opportunity.



Flying from Manchester to Marseille, we will then transfer by coach to Avignon, and stay in a hotel in the city. As well as attending language school lessons with native speakers in groups of ten, students will enjoy cultural activities including a guided tour of the city, a visit to Palais des Papes, a ride on Le Petit Train and take part in a treasure hunt in the Old Town. In the evenings, they will enjoy group activities led by Bolton School staff such as bowling and mini-golf.

GEOGRAPHY TOUR

BOLTON
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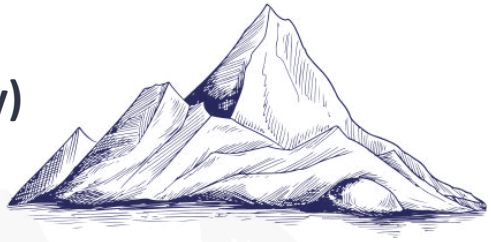
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: October Half Term 2026
Venue: Iceland
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 9–13 (Geography students only)
Approximate Cost: £1,675
Trip Leader: Mr P Jackson



The Geography Department embarks on an overseas trip every three years, with expressions of interest requested approximately eighteen months in advance. This trip will enable students to improve their understanding of physical geography by experiencing first-hand the natural landscapes that will become an integral part of their GCSE and A Level studies.

The trip will include visiting some of the best coastal, glacial, tectonic landscapes, together with taking in the cultural aspects that country has to offer.





Sample itinerary:

- Visit to a thermal spa;
- Eyjafjalljokull flood plain;
- Glacier Walk at Sólheimajökull;
- Walk around a volcano crater;
- Geysir and bubbling mud pots;
- Gullfoss waterfall;
- Stand on an actual plate boundary;
- Virtual fly over Iceland in a simulator;
- Monster truck tour of an ice cap with an 'into the glacier' experience.

GERMAN TRIP (JUNIOR)

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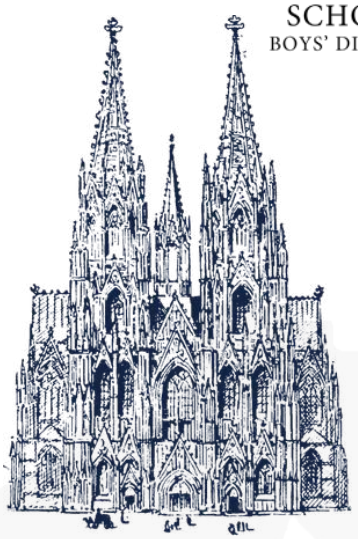

Date: October Half Term 2027
Venue: Cologne
Duration: 5 nights
Year Group(s): 8–9 (German students only)
Approximate Cost: £700
Trip Leader: Mr M Boyd

Travelling by coach and overnight ferry from Hull to Rotterdam, students will spend four days in and around Germany's fourth largest city before returning to Bolton.

Students will be able to discover the reality of what their first few months of German has taught them. A packed itinerary provides opportunities to let off steam with a visit to a water park, rides on cable cars, walking and shopping all built into the programme, as well as more academic activities such as visits to a fortress and museums.

This trip is always a highlight of the school year for those who attend and is a fantastic way to boost motivation and excitement about studying German, as well as providing an excellent introduction to German history and culture.



GERMAN TRIP (SENIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION



Date: October Half Term 2026 (biennial)
Venue: Berlin
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 10–11 (German students only)
Approximate Cost: £1,000
Trip Leader: Mr M Boyd

Berlin offers a unique experience of culture, history and leisure as students experience the opportunity to see with their own eyes the consequences of its turbulent past. Visits include a former STASI prison and remnants of the Berlin Wall from the Cold War era, such as the TV Tower, as well as memorials to the victims of the Nazi regime. There will also be time for leisure activities at shopping malls, local restaurants and a visit to the Olympic Stadium where Jesse Owens was victorious in winning four gold medals.

This biennial trip is a fantastic opportunity to experience a unique city and hopefully inspire motivation to continue the study of German beyond GCSE.





KAYAKING TRIP

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: July 2027
Venue: Briancon, French Alps
Duration: 10 nights
Year Group(s): 11–13
Approximate Cost: £1,700
Trip Leader: Mr S Bradley



This trip aims to build on experience built up during sport and weekend trips. Members of the School's White-Water Academy are offered the opportunity for a ten-day immersive kayaking experience in one of the best kayaking locations in the French Alps. Camping near Briancon on the banks of the river Durance, students will experience the thrill of alpine white water, learning essential skills and techniques as well as invaluable leadership skills, camp craft and teamwork.





MOUNTAIN BIKING TRIP

BOLTON SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: February Half Term 2026/End of Term 2027
Venue: Malaga/Briancon, the Alps (biennial)
Duration: 7 nights
Year Group(s): 9–13 (Mountain Bike Club members only)
Approximate Cost: £1,500–1,900
Trip Leader: Mr S Bradley



Staying in the beautiful village of Mijas, the Malaga trip runs every February Half-Term when the Ski Trip does not take place. Students access some of Southern Spain's best mountain biking trails, aiming to build on experience built up over the years by taking part in after school Mountain Biking.

The French Alps trip tags onto the end of the Kayaking Trip in the year the Ski Trip takes place. Students camp at the same campsite and use the same camping equipment with pupils flying out to the region, then travel home in the School vehicles. Les Orres, Serre Chevalier, Puy St Vincent and Risoul bike parks are visited, with all providing either gondola or chairlift service to the top of the runs.









PATTERDALE HALL

BOLTON SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: Various
Venue: Patterdale Hall, Ullswater
Duration: 2 nights
Year Group(s): 7–12
Approximate Cost: £300
Trip Leader: Head of Year



As an integral part of the School's Outdoor Learning curriculum, every pupil takes part in a three-day residential visit to Patterdale Hall with their form group during term-time. Our residential outdoor adventure and learning centre, situated at Lake Ullswater, provides direct access to the Lakeland fells, offering exceptional opportunities for a wide range of outdoor learning activities. These compulsory visits are designed to be memorable and meaningful and ensure that pupils experience progressive challenges and build on their skills throughout their time at Bolton School. Alumni often reflect and comment on the impact that their time at Patterdale Hall has on their future hobbies, interests and workplace skills.





The trips are carefully structured to develop character, resilience and independence. Pupils participate in a varied programme of facilitated activities such as canoeing, climbing, gorge walking, sailing and orienteering. Through these shared experiences, pupils strengthen teamwork, communication and leadership skills while gaining confidence in unfamiliar environments.

Beyond the activities themselves, the residential time at Patterdale Hall fosters lasting friendships and encourages pupils to step outside their comfort zones, developing deeper relationships with their year group staff, along with key life skills, all in a supportive and inspiring setting. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Lake District, pupils return with a strong sense of achievement and confidence.

RUGBY TOUR (JUNIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION



Date: Easter 2027
Venue: Bath
Duration: 2 nights
Year Group(s): 8–9 (Junior Rugby Squads only)
Approximate Cost: £350
Trip Leader: Mr T Benbow

The upcoming Rugby Tour to Bath, scheduled for March 2027, offers an immersive sporting experience for our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils. The trip includes a two-night stay at the YHA Bath and a comprehensive itinerary focused on player development. Students will participate in competitive fixtures against local schools and rugby clubs, receive professional training through community rugby coaching sessions and enjoy the atmosphere of a live Premiership Rugby game. This tour provides a valuable opportunity for players to hone their skills and build lasting team camaraderie.





RUGBY TOUR (SENIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: Easter 2027 TBC
Venue: Italy
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): 9–10 (Rugby Squads only)
Approximate Cost: £1,500
Trip Leader: Mr T Benbow



Easter 2027 will see the return of the European Rugby Tour. This tour is traditionally designed for our Middle School year groups (Years 9 and 10), providing a fantastic opportunity for players to develop their skills on an international stage.



The trip serves as a brilliant capstone to the season, focusing on fostering a strong "team feel" that encourages boys to bond outside their usual friendship groups. Highlights of the tour include competitive fixtures against local Italian clubs known for their exceptional hospitality; professional coaching sessions at elite facilities like Benetton Treviso; and immersive cultural excursions to iconic cities such as Venice, Bologna, or Verona. It is a unique blend of high-level sport and cultural discovery that remains a definitive highlight of the Bolton School Rugby experience.



SKI TRIP



BOLTON
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BOYS' DIVISION

Date: February Half Term 2027 (biennial)
Duration: 6 nights
Venue: Sestrière
Year Group(s): 8–9 (Year 10 at the time of the trip)
Approximate Cost: £2,000
Trip Leader: Mr M Chilton

Perhaps the largest school trip run jointly across the Foundation with Girls' Division, the Year 9–10 Ski Trip takes place biennially during February Half-Term. Recent trips have been concentrated around the Milky Way area of the Italian Alps, heading to resorts such as Claviere, Sestrière and Sauze d'Oulx, although we have also visited resorts in France and Austria.

Skiers from all abilities spend approximately thirty hours learning to ski or refining their skills across the week with qualified local ski instructors. A number of School staff also hold Ski Leader (ASCL) qualifications.

Night-time activities include sledging, ice skating, crêpe and pizza nights and even the occasional disco!





SPANISH TRIP (SENIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: October Half Term 2026 (biennial)
Venue: Seville
Duration: 5 nights
Year Group(s): 10–13 (Spanish students only)
Approximate Cost: £1,400
Trip Leader: Mrs J Cotton



The Spanish Department is delighted to offer the opportunity to spend six days in Seville in October Half-Term of 2026. This biennial visit is a combined study and sightseeing tour and will enable students to improve their Spanish at the same time as experiencing a city that is regarded as the artistic, cultural and financial capital of southern Spain.

The visit includes lessons on three mornings at the Centro Mundolengua and activities and visits in the afternoons and evenings. On completing the week, students will earn a certificate that is accredited by the Instituto Cervantes. Excursions include a day trip to Córdoba, including to the Mezquita, a tour of Sevilla FC stadium, the bull ring, the Plaza de España and Seville cathedral. The trip takes place biennially and will therefore be offered in 2026 and then 2028.

SEVILLE

WALESBY FOREST TRIP

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: End June 2026 (5 nights)
Venue: Walesby Forest, Nottingham (Fully booked)
Duration: 5 nights
Year Group(s): 8
Approximate Cost: £500
Trip Leader: Mr P Costello



This camping trip aims to provide something for everyone. By getting fully involved, as generations of Bolton School students have done before them, pupils will have fun, make lasting memories, form new friendships, and develop valuable life skills.



Current plans include visits to a theme park and a water park, as well as opportunities to explore the surrounding forest. The campsite itself offers a wide range of activities, including archery, tomahawk throwing, laser tag, climbing, swimming, and canoeing. We will also continue the long-standing tradition of inter-tent tournaments in cricket, football, and table tennis. As always, the camp will conclude with a night around the campfire, featuring songs and sketches performed by staff and students alike.

WATER POLO TOUR (JUNIOR)

BOLTON
SCHOOL
BOYS' DIVISION

Date: Easter 2027 TBC
Duration: TBC
Venue: Malta
Year Group(s): U13 Water Polo Squad only
Approximate Cost: £1,000
Trip Leader: Mr D Teasdale

This popular Water Polo tour offers U13 Water Polo Squad members the opportunity to train and compete in one of Europe's strongest water polo nations. Based in Malta during the Easter holidays, the tour focuses on high-quality training sessions and fixtures hosted by local Maltese clubs, providing excellent preparation and development opportunities.

Malta has a proud water polo culture, with professional league matches attracting large crowds and the island regularly hosting international training camps. Alongside the sporting programme, pupils will experience Malta's rich history and culture, with previous tours including a visit to watch a professional match at the National Pool, sightseeing in Valletta, and leisure activities such as bowling. The combination of elite sport, cultural enrichment and team bonding makes this an outstanding and memorable tour for young water polo players.





WATER POLO TOUR (SENIOR)

BOLTON
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BOYS' DIVISION

Date: October Half Term 2026
Venue: Camogli and the Ligurian Riviera, Italy
Duration: 4 nights
Year Group(s): Under 18 Water Polo Squad only
Approximate Cost: £1,200 TBC
Trip Leader: Mr D Teasdale



This Senior tour is planned to run every two to three years and provides our U18 squads with an outstanding blend of high-quality water polo and cultural experiences on the Italian Riviera.

Based in the coastal town of Camogli, students will take part in daily training sessions (typically 1.5–2 hours) and evening fixtures and scrimmages against local clubs, with the aim of maximising playing time across the tour. The programme is also expected to include a guided visit to Portofino, and – fixtures permitting – the opportunity to watch a professional match (e.g. Pro Recco / or other local elite clubs). This tour offers a superb opportunity for performance development, team bonding and an unforgettable sporting experience abroad.



