



# Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

*'True Teaching'*


Headmaster: Dr Simon Uttley FRSA KHS

Fawley Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 3EP

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October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Year 9 & 10: Design, Engineering and Technology Trip to Didcot Railway Centre on Wednesday 13 March 2024**

I am writing to inform you of a wonderful opportunity for up to 60 of our Year 8 and 9, 10 Design and Technology students to visit Didcot Railway Centre on Wednesday 13 March 2024. Didcot Railway Centre is unique heritage railway and museum, steeped in Edwardian history and

At present, there is a shortfall of 55,000 skilled engineers in the UK. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects in schools serves as the fertile ground in which future engineers, technical workers and industry leaders are nurtured. Didcot Railway Centre has outstanding facilities and expertise to be able to deliver a wide range of activities in a fun and exciting way during the day.

A few of the example activities of the day will include structural engineering and bridge building, mechanics of a steam locomotive with a tour of the works, a trip to the coal stage which will focus on the environmental aspect and the future of fuels we use for transport, and a ride on one of the steam trains (and an opportunity to visit the footplate) where a maths activity will also take place. There will be opportunities to meet some original railway engineers with over 100 years' experience combined.

Students who gain a place will travel by coach, leaving Blessed Hugh Faringdon at **9am** and returning by **4pm** on **Wednesday 13 March 2024**.

As our destination is a practical environment, it is recommended that the students wear casual clothing and sturdy footwear with good grips. There will also be an opportunity to visit the gift shop, so students will be allowed to bring some spending money if they so wish.

In order to facilitate this event, we request a voluntary contribution of **£26** per student. This will enable us to cover the cost of the transport and the full day's activities; payment is now available via ParentPay and places will be allocated to Students. Without sufficient contributions it may not be possible to run this event.



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**Students will need to bring a packed lunch and drinking water (if your child receives a free school meal then a lunch will be provided).**

If you would like your child to attend this event, please make payment on ParentPay by **8 January 2024** along with completing all the relevant sections with regards to the trip on ParentPay.

***Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, and will close earlier if all the places have been taken before 8 January 2024.***

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss anything further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr C Saumarez  
Subject Leader Design and Food Technology

