

04 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Rugby and Netball Tour to Sri Lanka 2026

Downlands Community School is delighted to announce a Rugby and Netball tour to Sri Lanka, building upon the success of our 2024 South Africa tour. This exceptional trip, scheduled from **22nd May 2026 to 30th May 2026 (9 days, 7 nights)**, offers students a unique opportunity to experience a blend of international sports and cultural immersion. The estimated cost of this tour is **£2000***.

This tour is open to students in Years 7 and 8. Rugby participation is limited to boys, as girls' rugby is not widely played in Sri Lanka. Netball participation is open to girls. We have capacity for two rugby teams and four netball teams.

Participants are expected to be active members of school and/or club training programs and to maintain a competitive playing standard. Continued participation in school training throughout the current and next academic year is also required.

Students will engage in a carefully structured itinerary that balances sporting activities with cultural exploration. The tour includes:

- International flights from Heathrow or Gatwick (final airport to be confirmed) to Colombo.
- Downlands School staff-led training sessions.
- Seven nights' accommodation in various Sri Lankan resorts on a half-board basis.
- Excursions to: Gangaramaya Temple, Dambulla Cave Temple, Minneriya National Park evening safari, Kandy city tour, Temple of the Tooth, a turtle hatchery, and a tea factory.
- A community service afternoon teaching English and arts and crafts at a children's home in Kandy, followed by a cultural dance performance.
- Three netball matches and three rugby matches.
- Coach transfers throughout Sri Lanka.
- School group travel insurance.

This is a remarkable opportunity for students to experience a unique cultural and sporting adventure.

To sign up for a place on this tour, please complete the online application form by **9:00 AM on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025**. Please ensure all fields are completed. You will be notified of your child's place on the tour by **4:00 PM on Friday, 25th April 2025**.

[Online Application Form](#)

Upon confirmation of a place, a non-refundable deposit of **£350.00** will be payable via SCOPAY by **1st May 2025**. Please note that payment of the deposit signifies your commitment to the tour, and the full cost will be payable unless a replacement student is found or an insurance claim is successful. The final tour price will be confirmed once deposit payments are received and bookings are secured with the tour operator.



To ensure transparency, please note the following costs are not included in the tour price:

- Sri Lankan visa (information to follow; parent/carer responsibility).
- Tour kit (playing kit, hoodies, bags) available for purchase from GR Teamwear from February 2026 (estimated cost: netball £115, rugby £140). It will be compulsory to buy Tour Kit as the students will be playing in this.
- Spending money for snacks and lunches on match days.
- Coach transfers to/from Heathrow Airport (if applicable; cost added to SCOPAY). **If flights are from Gatwick, parent/carer drop off and collection will be required.**

Please factor these additional expenses into your budget.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at dshah@downlands.org there is also a presentation on the school website under Letters for Parents Year 7 and Year 8 with visuals and detail. I have added a link to this below;

[Sri Lanka Presentation](#)

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. D. Shah

Teacher of Science, Year 9 Tutor

*** Please note**

The tour company reserve the right to re-cost our tour should the regulatory advice from the local or UK Government change, specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, which subsequently means a potential change to their expected operating practices either at our destination or on our journey. Any proposed amendment to our tour price as a result would be advised to you in advance.

The tour price is based on a minimum of 60 full paying passengers. If numbers should fall below these numbers the tour company reserve the right to re-cost the tour, this means that all deposits/payments are non-refundable to go towards this costing, if however there is excess then this amount will be refunded to you. To cover this repricing so not to effect other parents (i.e. the price will not increase), the payment and cancellation schedule will be advised in confirmation of a place on the trip. Cancellation of a child's place for all reasons other than medical (excluding Covid-19) is treated as disinclination to travel. Should a child be removed from the trip by the school or parents for any reason, including but not limited to, behaviour, exclusion, changing school, the cost of the trip remains parental responsibility.