

October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## **Politics Tour to New York and Washington DC, Tuesday 3 to Monday 9 July 2018**

The Politics Department of the Associated Sixth Form is excited to be offering a new school trip to Washington DC and New York for July 2018. Our new A Level Specification now includes a component on the USA. Among other aspects, this includes studying the politics and institutions of the American system. We believe that visiting the USA would be an invaluable experience for students, something that would bring the course alive and inspire a greater understanding of the politics of America.

We will be visiting New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia and have arranged visits to the Empire State Building, a ferry to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, Broadway tickets, a tour of Capitol Building and Supreme Court, visits to Independence Hall and Liberty Bell together with many other excursions relating to our course.

We will be travelling with Virgin Atlantic, departing Manchester Airport on Tuesday 3 July and returning into Heathrow Airport on Monday 9 July 2018.

The cost of the trip is determined by the number of students who wish to go. However we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £1,400.00-£1,500.00. This price includes return UK transfers, flights, accommodation on a room-only basis (four students will share a room in two king-size beds), all evening meals including tips, transfers within the USA, excursions and a Broadway ticket.

In addition to the tour cost, your son/daughter will need approximately \$12-\$15 per day for a 'grab and go' style breakfast and lunch. They will also require a passport which is valid up to and including the date of return to the UK. All students will need to apply for an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) through the Visa Waiver Programme, which allows travel to the US for up to 90 days. The cost of this is approximately £15.00. Please do not apply for the visa before your son/daughter's place on the trip is confirmed.

To secure a place on this trip, we require a **non-refundable deposit of £200.00 by Friday 13 October 2017**. Our preferred method of payment is via ParentPay where you can give consent online for the trip and view the balance due. Payments by cheque will still be accepted and should be made payable to St Aidan's School and returned to the Finance Office with the tear-off slip below. Please note that the attached consent form must be returned regardless of the payment method and places cannot be confirmed until we have received it.

The balance of the trip will then be divided into three payments and these will be due in November 2017, January and March 2018. Further information will be given, once the final cost is known.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. When accompanying children on a school trip, staff are acting in *loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that pupils are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip the school staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

The school will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the wellbeing of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the pupil onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the trip leader, the head of year and senior staff. Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip then, if in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, staff have concerns again about the pupil's participation in the trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place.

If you have any questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact us or Tracey Collins, the Trips Administrator at St Aidan's High School.

Regards

Dr F Murray  
Head of Politics, St Aidan's High School

Mr M Melville  
Deputy Head Sixth Form, St John Fisher's High School



**Y12 Politics Tour to New York and Washington DC  
Tuesday 3 to Monday 9 July 2018**

Pupil's name..... Form .....

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the Year 12 Politics Tour to New York and Washington DC and enclose a **non-refundable deposit cheque for £200.00** which I have paid by ParentPay / cheque (please delete one)

Name..... Signature.....

**Please return this completed slip by Friday 13 October 2017**

**This form must be returned by ALL students**