



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

June 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian

## Year 9 Trips – June 2019

As I am sure you now understand St Aidan's Church of England High School sees extra-curricular activities and residential trips as being of immense value to individual students within their particular year groups. Therefore, the school provides opportunities in each year for pupils to undertake different challenges / experiences that we hope will contribute to the all-round education of each pupil.

The plans for Year 9 trips in 2019 are now underway and students will have the opportunity to visit one of the five trips available, each of which will add to their individual spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Next year we are offering trips to:

- Berlin, Germany
- Valkenburg, Holland
- Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Sorrento, Italy
- Rhine, Germany

In addition, there is an opportunity for a small number of children to visit Sri Lanka and Australia on our Overseas Exchange Program. Further details are within this pack.

As in previous years, some trips may be oversubscribed and therefore we ask you to return the attached form on or before **Monday 9 July 2018** so that we can make appropriate arrangements. We will try our very best to accommodate everyone's first choice however this is not always possible and students should think carefully about their first and second choices before submitting their form.

As always, staff are acting in '*loco parentis*' just as they do in school when accompanying children on a school trip. 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.

Staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents. Once all the forms have been returned to school, we will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the well-being of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands *before* accepting any pupil onto the Year 9 trips. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the Trip Leaders, the Head of Year and Senior Staff.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

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Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip if, in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, there are concerns again about the pupil's participation on the trip, **the Head of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

I hope your son /daughter will enjoy reading the pack we have put together outlining the exciting trips and opportunities that are on offer in Year 9 at St Aidan's.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Regards

Mr J Wood  
Headteacher

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Dear Year 8 Parent

## Educational Visits for Year 9, June 2019

As Mr Wood's letter explains, we are delighted to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to benefit from the immense value of the educational trips that we offer. You will find attached a full information sheet on each trip to enable you to select the visit most suited to your son/daughter's interests. The trips are optional; a pupil does not have to go on a trip if they do not want to.

Please take note of the following important information:

- Please rank the trips in order of preference using the form attached
- Please return the form **by Monday 9 July 2018** even if you do not wish to go on a trip
- If it is important that you go with your friends, please discuss it with them prior to making your choice
- When a trip is oversubscribed, we put all the names in an envelope and they are pulled out by a senior member of staff
- If a pupil withdraws from a trip and there is a waiting list, all names will be put in an envelope and a substitute pupils will be selected by a senior member of staff
- **Places are allocated in September** when we return to school and we have received all the forms and an email will be sent out informing students which trip they are on
- The exact price of each trip cannot be determined until we know the numbers for each trip, therefore a guide price has been given and this will be confirmed in your child's letter in September
- Deposits will be asked for towards the end of September/beginning of October. To help with planning, the deposits will be in the region of £150.00 - £275.00
- For those pupils who do not wish to go on a trip, they will be expected in school and they will enjoy a week of activities organised by different departments in and around school
- If your child wishes to apply for the Overseas Exchange Program, there will be a meeting on **Wednesday 4 July 2018 in the main hall**.

All students will require an individual passport which must be valid up to and including the date of return into the UK together with an EHIC Health Card (check expiry date). Please note that if your child holds an EU passport, they may require a visa to travel and it is your responsibility to acquire this.

Regards

Mrs T Collins  
Trips Administrator

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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**Year 9 Educational Visits, June 2019**  
**(excluding Sri Lanka and Australia)**

**Please return to main reception at St Aidan's by Monday 9 July 2018**

Name of pupil ..... Form .....

Signed ..... Parent/Guardian Date .....

**Please number the boxes from 1-5 with your preference where 1 is your first choice**

Berlin, Germany

Rhine, Germany

Sorrento, Italy

Valkenburg, Holland

Amsterdam, Holland

I do not wish to take part in a trip

**Places are allocated in September 2018**

**Please choose carefully, especially your first and second choices**

**Thank you**

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## Valkenburg, Holland - Sunday 9 June to Friday 14 June 2019

This is an exciting opportunity for both boys and girls who enjoy playing football and hockey as you can combine three fixtures against local clubs together with visits to the surrounding areas. You will be based in Valkenburg situated in the province of Limburg, one of the most unusual parts of Holland – it has hills! Its inland position close to the borders of Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg, provides a great venue for your sports tour. With formidable local sports teams Valkenburg is an excellent destination. It is also a safe and cosmopolitan town with good recreational facilities and a pedestrianised centre which enables pupils to explore safely.



The whole group



Girls' Hockey teams



Borussia Monchengladbach

You will travel and play games against local clubs rather than schools which means that the matches will be in the late afternoon or early evening and excursions are planned around these times. Each day we will also have practice sessions either on an open-grass area or in a sports hall in the town.

Travel is by **executive coach** and **Eurotunnel to Calais**. We use two hotels in the heart of Valkenburg, one street away from the main attractions. The hotels' accommodation is booked on a full-board basis and rooms will sleep 2-4 students with en-suite facilities. Excursions across the borders will make this a truly 'European' destination.

The itinerary is action-packed and in addition to the matches, you will enjoy:

- a day trip into Germany to visit its largest theme park, PhantasiaLand
- a trip to Maastricht
- a tour of the Borussia Monchengladbach FC Stadium Tour
- an afternoon visit to Mosaqua Water Park, a tropical theme pool with indoor wave pool, Supertube, rapids and a 92m long slide
- trips to LaserQuest, Labyrinth Maze Vaals and toboggan rides
- a visit to a local bustling market for some personal shopping.

The approximate cost for this visit is £520.00 (to be confirmed in September) to include transport, full board, entry to all attractions and the fees for each of the fixtures. Departure is around 06:00 on Sunday 9 June 2019, returning to school at approximately 21:00 on Friday 14 June 2019. All the final details will be confirmed at a parents' meeting in May 2019 before the pupils depart.

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## Sorrento, Italy, Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 2019



Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. The Sorrento trip provides an opportunity for students to see how tectonic activity has created a unique environment and how volcanic activity has impacted on people. It also provides the opportunity to look at how landscape and climate influences the way of life and economy of the area.

The scenery, weather and activities are fantastic but students must be prepared and willing to watch, listen and explore. This is a very busy trip with lots of activities and long days, and students will be expected to complete some work to enhance their experience.



Travel is by plane from a Northern airport to Naples and we use one hotel in Sorrento where full board accommodation has been secured. Room will sleep between 2-4 students and have en-suite facilities. We hope to include the following in the trip:

- A half day hike up to the crater of Mount Vesuvius and introduction to the area
- A session with a local ice cream maker lets students see how the famous Amalfi lemons are made into delicious ice cream. There will be other opportunities to sample traditional dishes and culture of the region
- A visit to a working farm to see how agriculture adapts to the climate and landscape of the area
- A tour of Herculaneum, a town that was completely buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. A small part of it has been excavated to reveal buildings, statues and fantastic Roman mosaics and paintings
- A half day visit to Pompeii provides another example of a preserved Roman settlement. The group will take a walking tour through the buildings of the old town with well-preserved examples of Roman buildings
- A trip to Amalfi

The trip will cost approximately £750.00, which will include full board accommodation, return flights, all activities and transfers in Italy and return UK airport transfers. Our departure time will be very early on Monday 10 June 2019. The final price will be confirmed in September 2018 when we know how many pupils would like to go. All the final details will be confirmed at a parents' meeting in May 2019 before the pupils depart.

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## The Rhine, Germany, Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 2019

This is an exciting opportunity for Year 9 students to visit one of the most breathtakingly beautiful parts of Germany, to discover the cultural highlights of the region and will also help those studying German as there will be plenty of opportunities for students to improve their speaking skills.



Each day we will have time together as a group to discuss the learning opportunities for the day ahead before setting off on a coach outing to local places of interest.

We will be visiting the picturesque towns of Boppard and Koblenz, both of which have lots of history and excellent shopping facilities!

The following excursions have been planned:

- A Rhine river cruise which will reveal hidden castles and fairy-tale scenery
- Two chair lift rides will ascend us into the heights of the German countryside with stunning views of the Rhine Valley and enchanted caves and towers to discover.
- A trip to the Bridge at Remagen offers an interesting insight into World War 2
- A visit to the Marksburg Castle sees pupils exploring castle life throughout the ages and the opportunity to experience the perils of a medieval torture chamber!!
- Mini-golf and swimming
- No school trip to the Rhineland would be complete without a day at Germany's largest theme park, PhantasiaLand, where students can enjoy the thrills of the roller coasters, white water log rides, amazing live shows and much more.

Return travel is by executive coach from St Aidan's to our hotel in the historic town of Boppard, situated on the banks of the Rhine for 4 nights. The hotel has various room sizes for pupils and has en-suite facilities. This is an all-inclusive trip with full board accommodation whilst in Germany, all transport and entrance fees to each attraction are included in the price. We will travel via Dover departing St Aidan's at around 00:01 on Monday 10 June 2019 and return on Friday 14 June 2019 arriving at school at approximately 21:30. You will be informed of all the final details at a parents' meeting in May before the pupils depart. The approximate price for the trip will be **£400.00**; however the final price will be confirmed in September 2018 when we know how many pupils would like to go.

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## Amsterdam, Holland from Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 2019

After a successful first visit to Amsterdam earlier this month, we are happy to offer this trip again to Year 9 students. Amsterdam is the Netherlands' capital, known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system and narrow houses with gabled facades. Its Museum District houses the Van Gogh Museum, works by Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum, and modern art at the Stedelijk.



Travel is by executive coach and Eurotunnel from Folkestone to our hotel in Amsterdam. The accommodation is in a centrally-located hotel with various room sizes for pupils, en-suite facilities and is on a full-board basis.

We hope to include the following excursions:

- Canal cruise – we will absorb the canal-front sights of Amsterdam on a leisurely sightseeing cruise
- A visit to the Anne Frank House – we will visit the house where a Jewish girl had to hide during WW2 to escape the Nazis
- A visit to Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum - dedicated to modern and contemporary art and design
- NEMO Science Centre – a unique and interactive attraction housed in a gigantic, boat-shaped copper building in the centre of Amsterdam
- Full day in Efteling Theme Park – enjoy the thrills of the rides!
- A visit to Zaanse Schans village to a clog factory, cheese making, and see the windmills and various other small museums, shops and craft places.
- Bowling



This is an all-inclusive trip with full-board accommodation, transport and entrance fees to all attractions are included in the price. The approximate price for the trip will be **£520.00, however the final price will be confirmed in September when we know how many pupils would like to go.** Departure time is still to be confirmed and will be between 00:01 and 04:00 on Monday 10 June 2019 and return on Friday 14 June 2019 arriving at school at approximately 21:30. You will be informed of all the final details at a parents' meeting in May 2019 before the pupils depart.

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## Berlin, Germany, Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 2019

We are very excited to offer a brand new trip to Berlin for Year 9 students in 2019 and the opportunity to explore Germany's capital, which dates to the 13th century. There is so much to see and do in Berlin – from fascinating heritage sites and impressive architecture, such as Reichstag parliament building, to making your own chocolate and films! There is something for everyone



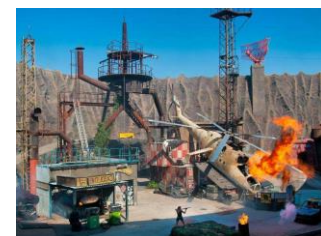
We have devised a fun itinerary to see many of the sights that Berlin offers and hope to include many of the following and more:

- A walking tour of historical Berlin- a fantastic way to see the city
- A visit to the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie
- An afternoon at the Rittersport Workshop, make your own chocolate bar and either eat it or wrap it for a present!
- A visit to the Babelsberg Film Park plus a 60 minute guided tour of Produce a Movie
- Berlin Zoo & Aquarium, a fun afternoon at Germany's oldest zoological garden and home to over 20,000 animals
- A visit to the Sony Imax
- Boat cruise



This is an all-inclusive trip and we will depart from St Aidan's on Monday 10 June 2019 and fly from a Northern airport to Berlin. UK and EU transfers are included

Full board accommodation is in a central hotel with various room sizes. Breakfast will be taken at the hotel, packed lunches provided for our excursions and evening meals will be taken at local restaurants.



The approximate cost for the trip is £620.00, however the final price will be conveyed in September when we have the final numbers for the trip. Further information will be handed out throughout the year and there will be a parents' meeting in May 2019.

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**SRI LANKA AND AUSTRALIA**

**OVERSEAS EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**2019**

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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# ST. AIDAN'S

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## Overseas Exchange Programs to Sri Lanka and Australia

Each year St Aidan's runs two very exciting exchange opportunities to Sri Lanka and Melbourne in Australia and this is available to a small number of Year 9 students. In order to give you detailed information about both trips and to answer any questions you may have, we will be holding a parents' meeting on **Wednesday 4 July at 17:00 in the Main Hall**. It is important that parents and students attend this meeting if you would like to pursue this option more.

### SRI LANKA

Having hosted many incredibly successful visits from our friends in Hillwood College in Sri Lanka, we have been invited to visit them and their stunning country again for two weeks in January/February 2019. The visit aims to deliver a rounded cultural experience. It will include some time learning with Hillwood students in their classrooms, time with host families from across the community as well as trips to a vast array of beautiful and historical attractions that the country has to offer.

The pupils will travel with two members of staff and stay at Hillwood College. They will spend the weekend in pairs with a host family.

The students from Hillwood College will return to the UK in September 2019 (when our students are in Year 10) and the Sri Lankan students will stay in pairs with you for one week.

There are 8 places available for this exchange. Vaccinations are recommended at least 6 weeks prior to departure. Further information is available at [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk).

### MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Australia Exchange between St. Aidan's and Carey Baptist Grammar School, Melbourne, is now well-established and continues to be highly successful.

The reciprocal exchange would involve the St Aidan's students going to Melbourne in February 2019 for four weeks and staying with a host family and the Australian exchange partners returning to Harrogate in May for four weeks.

Whilst the students will spend a large part of the time on the exchange in Carey Baptist Grammar School, the focus of the exchange is more about developing independence, improving social skills and experiencing cultural diversity through travel.

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Please note that our students will be travelling **unaccompanied** and in the care of the airlines from the time they are dropped off at Manchester by parents/guardians and Melbourne by their host families on their return.

**It is essential that as parents and guardians, you are aware of this and comfortable with your child travelling alone on such a long journey.**

There are 10 spaces available to students.

## Costs

We do hope that you will appreciate that we will only be able to confirm the final cost of both trips when we have confirmation of numbers, flights and dates.

### Initial Indication of Costs:

Sri Lanka: approximately £1500.00 – this cost will include everything they require to travel to Sri Lanka (flights, visa, and accommodation) with the exception of spending money whilst there and injections. Students will require some spending money for the duration of their trip.

Australia: approximately £1150.00 – this cost will include everything they require to travel to Australia (flights, visa) with the exception of spending money for the duration of their trip.

We recognise that these are large amounts of money but we will do everything we can to negotiate an appropriate payment plan, should this be required.

### Hosting Expectations

As the emphasis for the Sri Lanka and Australian guests is to experience a very different culture in terms of schooling and family life, there is no expectation for our overseas guests to be taken on holidays or weekends away whilst they are staying with you. Day trips around Yorkshire and exploring the local area is more than satisfactory.

These day trips, together with housing and feeding an extra student, are an additional cost to the above and should be taken into consideration when deciding to apply for the Overseas Exchange Program. As part of their exchange, we would hope to take the overseas pupils only to London for two nights and Edinburgh for one night.

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## What happens next?

Wednesday 4 July 2018

### **17:00 Parents' Meeting in the main hall**

Presentation to parents and students on both trips. Application forms will be available at the meeting for completion by the students

Monday 9 July 2018

09:00 Students to hand in completed applications to Mrs Barron

Tuesday 10 July 2018

Shortlisting process - individual pupil's school attendance will be requested together with a character reference from all staff and the Head of Year

Friday 13 July 2018

Applicants will be informed if they are invited to the next stage, which is an individual interview

Monday 16 July 2018

Individual interviews will take place (times and format of interview to follow). Students will be informed if they are progressing to the next stage

Tuesday 17 July 2018

Group interviews for the successful candidates

Thursday 19 July 2018

We would like to be in a position to let the students know if they have been successful in gaining a place on the Sri Lanka or Australia exchange.

However, we are awaiting the gender breakdown from both the two schools and until we have this information, we may not be in a position to make a final decision. We may therefore wait until September to inform students.

Please note that students who apply for the Overseas Exchange Program can also apply for a Year 9 trip.

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