

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Politics & History Tour to Washington DC, Philadelphia & New York, Tuesday 30 June to Monday 6 July 2020

Following the enormous success of our trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington in July this year, the Politics and History Departments of the Associated Sixth Form are delighted to be able to offer this trip again. Our new Politics A Level Specification includes a component on the USA which incorporates studying the politics and institutions of the American system. The trip is also relevant to History A Level students as it enhances their study of modern Britain, 1951 and 2007, a period of significant developments in UK-US relations. We believe that visiting the USA is an invaluable experience for students, and something that would bring both courses alive and inspire a greater understanding of the politics and history of America.

We will be visiting Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York and have arranged tours of the Supreme Court, Capitol Building and Pentagon together with visits to the Empire State Building, a ferry to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, visits to the 9/11 Museum, Independence Hall and Liberty Bell together with many other excursions relating to our course.

We are hoping to travel with Virgin Atlantic from Manchester Airport to New York (return) departing on Tuesday 30 June 2020 and returning on Monday 6 July 2020. Transport to Manchester is included in the price.

The number of students who wish to go determines the cost of a trip this size. However, based on last summer's trip, we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £1,500.00-£1,600.00. 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 and all excursions.

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.**

Important Information

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to the Tour Operator. Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after 30 September 2019, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your son/daughter withdraws**, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by the Tour Operator. **For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.**

The trip should now be available on your ParentPay account and you will be able to give consent online and view the balance due. If you do not have your St Aidan's log-on details for ParentPay, please contact Mrs Holey on h.holey@staidans.co.uk. In order to secure a place on this trip, we require a **non-refundable deposit of £200.00 by 09:00 on Monday 30 September 2019 at the latest**. Please note that the attached consent form must also be returned, as places cannot be confirmed until we have received it.

Once we have the final numbers and cost, we will divide the balance of the trip into three payments; these will be due in November 2019, January and March 2020 and we will notify you of the instalments by email.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at The Associated Sixth Form. When accompanying students 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 students 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 students will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

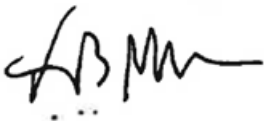
Once the deadline of Monday 30 September 2019 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each student who has signed up and decide whether they are able to cope with the demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Heads of the Associated Sixth Form and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and deposits in this case will be refunded.

Please note you will only be notified if your son/daughter is not accepted onto the trip.

Once a student 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 Heads of the Associated Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Murray or Mr Melville or Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator on 01423 818527.

Regards



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



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