

**Residential Trips**  
for the  
**Associated Sixth Form**  
at  
**St Aidan's and St John Fisher**

September 2019

Dear Parent

Throughout their time at the Associated Sixth Form, students have the opportunity to go on residential trips, outdoor day education visits and curriculum-related trips. These are to enrich the experiences of the students and to develop further their personal qualities and life skills including leadership, communication and resilience.

The Associated Sixth Form sees extra-curricular activities and residential trips as being of immense value to individual students within the particular year groups. Therefore, we provide opportunities students to undertake different challenges / experiences that we hope will contribute to their individual all-round education and add to their individual spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Over the next few weeks, students in Year 12 will be given information about the many trips we run and we hope that this booklet gives you an idea of the opportunities available in the Associated Sixth Form. An estimated cost has also been included so you can budget for these trips, should your child wish to participate. The majority of the trips are optional and on some, we can only take a limited number of students

Staff will act in '*loco parentis*' just as they do in school when accompanying students on a school trip and we would expect our students to behave in an exemplary manner and be able to cope with the challenges that each individual trip presents.

The majority of the large trips in the Sixth Form all take place each July during Enrichment Week and it is therefore important that you look at all the trips on offer before committing to the individual trips.

Once the deadline date for deposit payments has passed, we are unable to refund any monies paid as we also have to adhere to the strict deadlines imposed by the travel companies so that we get the best prices available.

Students will require their own passport and this must be valid up to and including the date of return to the UK. If he/she holds a passport other than one issued by the UK Passport Agency, please note it is **your responsibility** to check and apply if they require a visa to travel outside of the UK. All students will also need to have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The quickest and easiest way to get an EHIC is to apply online at [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers).

If you would like to discuss any of the trips in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Collins, our Trips Administrator, by phone on 01423 818527 or by email on [t.collins@staidans.co.uk](mailto:t.collins@staidans.co.uk).

Please note that the trips outlined in this document are run by St Aidan's only and there may be other trips which are run by St John Fisher's and are not detailed here.

Kind regards

D Holdsworth  
Assistant Head and Coordinator of Outdoor Activities

## **Cern Physics Trip**

We offer students the opportunity to visit CERN in Geneva in July each year. At CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. Students will have a chance to tour the facility, as well as meet some of the professors working at the facility. We will also take in a number of the sights in Geneva.

The cost is approximately £700.00 and takes place the first week after the end of the summer term.

## **Creative Writing Week**

The purpose of the week in Wales is to work in a creative environment with professional writers: novelists and poets. The emphasis is on self-motivation and commitment to individual creative work in an intensive environment with tutors on hand to give advice. Such a method of working is good preparation for university.

Students are given the time and tuition to develop their skills in any genre of writing. Through writing and drafting their own work, students should become more critically aware in a way that will help them with their studies.

Past experience has shown that students benefit from working together with established writers, producing work of a very high standard. The writing week is suited to any student wishing to take an arts-based degree including drama and, obviously, creative writing.

The cost is approximately £350-£400.00 and takes place in July each year.

## **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a rewarding programme of personal development which encourages young people to undertake constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time - there is a great deal of emphasis on developing independence and personal responsibility in the Award, both at Bronze and Gold levels.

The Award comprises four sections: Volunteering (with animals or in the community); Skill (a hobby, skill or interest); Physical Recreation (sports, dance and fitness) and Expedition (on foot, cycle, horseback or water). The Residential is an extra section for the Gold Award, which allows each participant to pursue an interest away from home in a residential setting for 5 days.

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is high with over 140 students completing their Bronze or Gold Award per year. In February 2018, 20 young people, either past or present students, attended the ceremony at Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Awards - each meeting the Earl of Wessex! Those students undertaking the Award complete their training and expeditions in various locations across the North of England, all renowned for their natural beauty: Gold training in the Lake District; Gold Practice in the Yorkshire Dales; and finally the Gold Assessed expedition on the North Yorkshire Moors.

The cost is approximately £70.00.

## **Geology Trip to Northumberland (compulsory)**

This trip is a requirement of the A-level Geology course and is an integral part of the practical endorsement component. For that reason, this trip is compulsory. Students will be looking at the geology of the Northumberland area and their work is tide dependent. This is reported as a separate item on the final GCE certificate. Accommodation is in a youth hostel in Northumberland.

The cost is approximately £170.00 and takes place in July each year.

## **Physics Trip to Goonhilly, Cornwall**

Each year Physics students visit the Goonhilly Earth Station in Cornwall. Goonhilly is a centre for satellite communications and space science. Recently St Aidan's have established links with the centre and through this, our students can benefit from a weeklong experience in this growing and exciting area of Physics.

This trip takes place in July each year and costs approximately £550-£600.00. Accommodation is in a Youth Hostel

## **Geography and Geology Trip to Iceland**

Students will have the opportunity to experience one of the most tectonically active environments on earth. They will visit major geographical and geological landforms such as active volcanoes, geysers, geothermal hot springs and waterfalls. The trip has a very busy daytime itinerary; the majority of time is spent outdoors and students need to be prepared to enjoy the opportunity, regardless of the weather.

The trip takes place in July and costs approximately £1180-£1240.00. Accommodation is in 2-3 hotels.

## **Language Trips to Salamanca and Cologne**

### **Cologne**

The trip has proved to be a very valuable and enjoyable experience for our students learning German with 4 hours' tuition per day at the Language School in Cologne. German teachers will teach our students.

German is spoken **throughout the trip** and as such, it will be a very immersive experience.

In addition to the time spent studying, there will be organised afternoon activities such as a tour of the city, several meals out in typical German restaurants, an outing to Bonn and its superb *Haus der Geschichte* museum and visits to Cologne's unforgettable Gestapo museum and the excellent city zoo. There will also be limited shopping time available in the fully pedestrianised city centre. Accommodation is in a local youth hostel.

The trip will be over 6 days in total and will take place in February every other year. The next trip will be in 2020 and is open to Year 12 and Year 13 students. The cost is approximately £650.00.

## **Salamanca**

We offer your son/daughter the opportunity to take part in an intensive language course in Spain in February each year. This trip is intended to offer extra assistance to those taking their A level exams each year. Since June 2000, we have developed a close association with an excellent language academy in Salamanca called ISLA. They are able to offer a tailor-made course for our students taught by Spanish teachers. Classes will run for 5 days with 4 hours tuition per day.

The cost is approximately £650.00 and students stay with host families.

## **Music Tours to Europe**

Each year, musicians and/or the Chamber Choir travel to Europe and they will have the opportunity to perform in fully promoted concerts.

The venue changes each year and as such, the cost will depend on which country we visit and whether we travel by coach or air.

The trip will take place in July of each year.

## **Liverpool Geography Field Trip (compulsory)**

Each June, Year 12 Geography students will complete the remaining two days of their compulsory fieldwork as part of their A-level. In October of each year, students spent two days (non-residential) in Leeds and on the East Coast where they begin their fieldwork experience.

In June, the Year 12 Geographers will spend the remaining two-day requirement on the West Coast in the Liverpool area. This will include an overnight stay in Liverpool at a local youth hostel.

The cost will be approximately £100.00.

## **Marrick Priory**

Marrick Priory is an outdoor centre set in beautiful countryside with a unique atmosphere. The weekend, held at the end of September, is an opportunity to engage in a range of activities and to look at God's world and our place in it and students in Years 8-13 are invited.

As well as enjoying the wide range of outdoor activities provided by qualified staff at Marrick Priory such as climbing, kayaking and a night walk, we take time to explore faith through games, music, prayer and creative worship. We encourage our young people to think about what it means for them to be a person of faith in today's world. How can we be real with God and with each other? An invitation to join the party is extended to all students who wish to consider some crucial questions in life as well as having a lot of fun and meeting pupils from other year groups.

The approximate cost of the weekend is £170.00 for two nights' accommodation including all meals, activities and transport by coach or school minibus.

## **Politics, Economics and History Trip to London**

Each July we organise a 3-day visit to London for up to 40 Year 12 students who are studying Politics, Economics and History.

The focus of the visit will be a tour of the Houses of Parliament, hopefully to include a meeting with the local MP, two top West End Shows and a visit to the Imperial War Museum and Cabinet War Rooms or the Bank of England and a walking tour of Canary Wharf. Accommodation is in a hotel in Central London.

Our aim is to increase the students' understanding about the workings and development of democracy in the UK. The cost is approximately £380.00.

## **Politics Tour to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC**

The Politics Department of the Associated Sixth Form offers a residential trip to Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York each July as our new A Level Specification now includes a component on the USA. Amongst 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 visit New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia and arrange 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.

The trip is for 6 nights and costs in the region of £1500.00. Accommodation is in hotels in each city.

## **Oxbridge**

To help students find out more about studying at Oxford and Cambridge, we organise a two-night residential visit to the annual open days at both universities. To gain the maximum benefit from the trip, students will spend the first night in one college and the second in another. Experiencing two colleges will broaden their experience of university life and help students with their UCAS application.

These residential trips take place at the end of June and the beginning of July each year and the cost is approximately £70.00.

## **Ski Trip to Europe**

Each year, students will have the opportunity to ski in Europe during half term in February each year. The location changes each year and students can go in both Year 12 and Year 13 if they wish.

All students will ski in groups of no more than 12 skiers per qualified ski instructor and they will ski with students of a similar ability. Those who have never skied before will find that this provides an opportunity to learn this exhilarating sport in a safe and structured environment. Snowboarding opportunities are also being introduced for future trips.

The inclusive cost of the trip is approximately £1280-£1300.00 and includes 4-5 hours of skiing per day, ski hire and lift pass together with all travel and accommodation costs.