

September 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian

Year 12 Visit to Cern – European Organisation for Nuclear Research – Geneva

We are delighted to be able to offer our Physics students the opportunity to take part in our highly successful trip to Geneva in July 2023 to visit CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

At CERN, 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 many sights in Geneva with the full itinerary to follow.

Organised by the well-established Tour Operator, Diverse School Travel, the proposed dates are **Monday 24 July to Friday 28 July 2023**, which is the **first week of the summer school holidays**. The price will include the following:

- Return coach travel and flights from Manchester/Liverpool Airport to Geneva
- Half board accommodation – 5 Days (4 Nights) and full insurance
- Full day in CERN plus lunch
- Guided tour of United Palace of Nations & a visit to the Red Cross Museum
- Mont Salève Cable Car Guided tour and a visit to the Bureau de la Montagne du Salève
- Visit to the Science Museum & Natural History Museum
- Fondue evening and a Lake cruise on Lake Geneva
- Visit to the Jardin Botanique, Genève and a laser tag experience

St Aidan's ParentPay

The trip is limited to 44 students across the Associated Sixth Form. The trip will only be available to pay on St Aidan's ParentPay. If you do not have access to St Aidan's ParentPay for your son/daughter, please contact Mrs Holey, h.holey@staidans.co.uk, before Tuesday 4 October 2022 to request the necessary activation codes. Please be sure to include your son/daughter's name in the email.

To give parents time to discuss the visit and other trips on offer in the Associated Sixth Form with their son/daughter, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open until **13:15 on Wednesday 5 October 2022 and close at 16:00 on Friday 14 October 2022**.

The cost of the trip is dependent on the number of students that attend; however, we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £700.00-£790.00. If your son or daughter is interested in a place, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £150.00 on the **St Aidan's ParentPay by Friday 7 October 2022**.

Places on the trip will be allocated via ParentPay on a first-come, first-served basis by receipt of online payment. Once all the places have been filled, please note you will not be able to sign up for the trip or pay the deposit, even if it is before the deadline of Friday 14 October 2022. Please then email Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, (t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk) and she will create a waiting list based on the date and time of your email in case of any cancellations.

The final price will be confirmed in April 2023 once we know the number of students attending. The payment schedule is as follows:

1 st deposit	£150.00 by <u>Friday 14 October 2022</u>
2 nd deposit	£210.00 by <u>Friday 25 November 2022</u>
3 rd deposit	£210.00 by <u>Friday 31 March 2023</u>
4 th deposit	£210.00 approximately by <u>Friday 12 May 2023</u>

Reminder emails will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing for your son/daughter to take part on the trip, the cost, and confirming that their medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to the tour operator, Diverse School Travel. However, if the trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, full refunds will be given (please see Covid-19 section below).

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Friday 14 October 2022, you will be required to pay the full price of the trip if your child withdraws, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by Diverse School Travel. 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.

Covid-19

As you will be aware, the Associated Sixth Form takes the current Covid-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff is always paramount. After many discussions with Diverse School Travel, we are confident that they are continually monitoring Government guidance regarding Covid-19.

Behaviour

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that the success of previous trips to Cern has been due in part to the excellent conduct of our students. Those who take part in this visit must recognise that this is a school trip, and they must behave accordingly. Whilst the hotel we are staying in and restaurants we visit will sell alcohol, please note that Associated Sixth Form students will not be allowed to purchase or drink alcohol during the trip. We ask parents to reinforce these points with their daughter/son.

Once the deadline of Friday 14 October 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.

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 student's participation on the trip, the Heads of the

Associated Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the student'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 us or Mrs McDonald.

Regards

Mr J Wilson
Physics Department

