

September 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian and Student

Year 12 English Trip to Ty Newydd Writing Centre from Monday 10 July to Saturday 15 July 2023

Following the success of this year's residential trip to The National Writers' Centre for Wales in Ty Newydd in Criccieth, we are delighted to be able to offer this trip again in July 2023 to any student who has an interest in attending.

The purpose of the week 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. 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 which will help them significantly with their studies. Students who have attended previous courses have benefitted from working together with established writers, producing work of a very high standard. This trip is particularly suitable for any student wishing to take an arts-based degree including English, drama and, of course, creative writing; however, anyone with an interest in writing is welcome to join the trip.

St Aidan's ParentPay

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

The trip is limited to 16 students across the Associated Sixth Form and 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.

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 £500.00-£595.00 which is inclusive of the course at the National Writers' Centre, full board accommodation for 5 nights, the company of two creative writing tutors and a visiting guest reader during the week and return coach travel from St Aidan's with Murgatroyds of Harrogate.

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 14 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 May 2023 once we know the number of students attending and the three remaining instalment payments of approximately £150.00 will be due by Friday 27 January 2023, Friday 24 March 2023, and Friday 26 May 2023. Reminder emails will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to the National Writers' Centre. 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 son/daughter withdraws from the trip**, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by the National Writers' Centre. 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.

Insurance and Covid-19 cancellation

The Associated Sixth Form will continue to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff remains our priority. We have a very comprehensive insurance policy, and we are confident that the National Writers' Centre are continually monitoring Government guidance and adapting their policies for the trip, so they are carried out in a safe and appropriate way. You can be reassured that you will receive a full refund if we must cancel the trip as a direct result of any future national lockdowns or Government advice against residential stays.

Behaviour

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that the success of previous trips to Criccieth 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. 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

Mrs Antonia Parris
St Aidan's English Department