

September 2023

Dear Student and Parent

Year 12 Trip to New York, Monday 1 July to Sunday 7 July 2024

Following the enormous success of previous trips to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, the Politics and History Departments of the Associated Sixth Form are delighted to be able to offer this trip again to students in July 2024.

Our 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 very 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.

Flights are with British Airways from Manchester Airport (via Heathrow) to New York departing on Monday 1 July 2024 and returning from Washington DC to Manchester (again via Heathrow) on Sunday 7 July 2024.

We are staying for two nights in New York and plan to visit the Empire State Building and take a ferry to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. We then transfer to Washington DC for three nights stopping off in Philadelphia on the way to visit Independence Hall and Liberty Bell. In DC, we are arranging tours of the Supreme Court and Capitol Building together with many other excursions in all three locations relating to our course.

The trip is limited to 35 students across the Associated Sixth Form.

Cost

The cost of the trip is dependent on the number of students that attend; however, we anticipate the price will be in the region of £1900.00-£1999.00 which is fully inclusive of:

- British Airways flights from Manchester Airport
- All UK and US transfers
- All excursions as above
- Twin room accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
- All evening meals
- Tips
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance

In addition to the tour cost, your child will need approximately \$12-\$15 per day for a 'grab and go' style lunch.

St Aidan's ParentPay / How to Reserve a Place

To give parents time to discuss the New York trip with their child in conjunction with the other trip opportunities available in the Associated Sixth Form, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open at 13:00 on Monday 2 October 2023 and close at 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023.

Following your discussions, if your child would like to apply for a place on the trip, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £350.00 **by Friday 6 October 2023**.

Please note the trip is **not** available on the St John Fisher's ParentPay. If you require an activation code for the St Aidan's ParentPay, please email parentpay@staidans.co.uk prior to Monday 2 October 2023. It is important to include your child's name in the email.

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

Places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023, all students will have an equal chance of being successful.

If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator and parents will be advised on **Thursday 13 October 2023** only if their child does not have a place. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage.

Instalment Payments

The final price of the trip will be confirmed at the end of March 2024 when we are assured of the number of students attending and the associated costs of the trip. The payments are as follows:

Deposit payment	£350.00 by Friday 6 October 2023
2 nd payment	£350.00 by Friday 24 November 2023
3 rd payment	£300.00 by Friday 29 December 2023
4 th payment	£300.00 by Friday 26 January 2024
5 th payment	£350.00 by Friday 1 March 2024
Final payment	£349.00 approximately by Friday 5 April 2024

Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each deadline date together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Important Financial Information

Please note that payments made for this trip are non-refundable as we are bound by the booking conditions of our tour operator, NST.

Whilst we offer instalment payments for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws after Friday 6 October 2023, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges unless a replacement student can be found. We therefore ask that you take the time to discuss this trip in detail with your child to make sure they are fully committed before you make any payment.

As financial pressures rise, we have been asked by some parents if they can support with the funding of trips for students who may not otherwise be able to afford to go. We do not currently have the means to facilitate this through ParentPay however, if you do wish to make a voluntary donation which will be put towards the cost of funding another student on the trip, please contact our Finance Manager via email at E.Amos@staidans.co.uk.

Passports/Visas

Students will need their own valid passport valid for the duration of the stay in the United States together with an EHIC/GHIC card.

Please note if your child does not hold a British passport, it is your responsibility to request the relevant visas to travel to Europe.

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 child's place on the trip is confirmed.**

Behaviour

School residential trips form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and when accompanying students on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. Trips away from the normal school environment involve considering different routines and environments and students must be able to demonstrate an increased level of responsibility and maturity. To participate in any trip, the school staff must be confident that a student will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Please note this trip operates a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol. We reserve the right to send home any student who we regard as having breached this rule which may require contacting parents to collect their child. The Headteacher would like to make clear that failure to observe this rule will potentially jeopardise a student's place in the Sixth Form.

Should you have any queries about the trip prior to paying the deposit or have concerns about making the deposit payment at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact either the trip leaders or Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, (t.mcdonald@staidans.uk).

Regards

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

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