

24/02/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

PSYCHOLOGY & HISTORY TOUR TO USA
12th – 19th February 2021

We are delighted to offer your son the opportunity to take part in a trip to New York and Washington next academic year. This trip is principally designed to expand your son's knowledge and understanding of many topics associated with Psychology and History. However, it is open to all students, who will be in Years 10-13 in September 2020 and who are interested in exploring these two subjects. Alongside this it also gives your son the great opportunity to visit two of the most cosmopolitan and vibrant cities in the world - the Big Apple and the centre of US democracy. For those taking GCSE History or A levels in Psychology and/or History you will get to see the development of Civil Rights, prejudice and multiculturalism, whilst also seeing the impact of media on influencing people's minds, attitudes and behaviours. All of this will help to expand your view of your subject and develop key understanding of it within a real-life setting. This letter is intended to simply introduce you to the trip and to gauge interest in this opportunity. As such, a more detailed letter will be published once we have confirmed that we have enough interest to run the trip.

The provisional cost of the trip is £1800 - £1900. This figure depends on numbers (20-30 students) taking part. It includes:

- 7 days and 6 nights in the USA
- Half board (breakfast and evening meal) accommodation in both cities
 - Holiday Inn Express, Midtown West (New York)
 - Capitol, Skyline Hotel (Washington)
- School travel insurance
- NST 24hr emergency contact service whilst on tour
- Amtrak Rail
- Meet & Greet at Airport in New York
- UK Airport Assistance (Outbound Journey)
- Online trip travel app
- Live trip tracking
- One piece of checked-in hold luggage per person each way
- Visits to various sites in New York and Washington which include:
 - Top of the Rock
 - A Broadway show in New York
 - A seminar with a Civil Rights Activist
 - 9/11 Tribute Museum
 - Liberty and Ellis Island
 - Library of Congress

- A 4-hour guided tour of Washington
- Visit to Jewish Museum

The cost of the trip is based on an expected travel party of 20-30 students and 3-4 staff. This will give the trip an excellent staff to student ratio of 1:10. A parents' meeting will be arranged during the summer term for those students who sign up for the trip, in order to give out more detailed information.

In addition to the tour cost, we would recommend that your son has £200 spending money for the trip. This would pay for lunchtime meals, a Metro travel card (bought in New York and Washington) and souvenirs. They would also be required to have a current passport, with at least 6 months left before its expiry date and have completed their ESTA application. ESTAs are travel visas for the United States which all visitors are required to have in order to enter the country. They are available on the ESTA website, but details will be sent out nearer to the time. Currently, ESTAs are priced at \$14, which is roughly £9.

To secure a place for your son on this trip, please log on to Parent Pay and pay the deposit of £125.00 by **20th March 2020**. This will be non-refundable once the trip has been confirmed with the provider. Further expected payments will be approximately £400 on a bi-monthly basis, before the final payment deadline on 8th November 2020. A letter with a more detailed breakdown of payments will be sent out once the trip, and therefore the cost, has been confirmed.

Please note that if the trip is oversubscribed priority will be given to students in Y11-13.

The trip is being booked through NST Travel, the UK's leading educational travel company for schools with more than 45 years' experience. They work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your son will get the very best learning experience whilst away.

If you or your son has any questions about the trip please get in contact with Mrs Watson (jmw@rgshw.com) or Miss Wilson (lew@rgshw.com).

Kind regards,

Mrs Watson & Miss Wilson

Trip Leaders (Psychology/History)