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Letter 33

28th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE History Trips to Berlin 14th-17th July & 15th-18th July 2019

The History Department would like to take eighty GCSE History students on an educational tour of Berlin. Students will visit various places of interest and historical importance. The visit aims to enhance the students' understanding of life in Nazi Germany as well as the impact of the Cold War on Berlin. Both of these elements are key topics in the GCSE examinations, although I wish to make it clear that no pupil will be at an educational disadvantage should they not attend the trip. As the number of students attending the trip is so great, students will be divided into two separate trips following the same itineraries. Students will be allocated into groups, with friends as far as possible, once we have received deposits. I must also point out that the groups will be staying in different accommodation in Berlin, but both will be in the city centre.

The proposed itinerary is:

- Day 1:** Flight to Berlin Tegel. Walking tour of central Berlin including the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, the site of Hitler's Bunker and the Holocaust Memorial
- Day 2:** Second World War underground bunkers, Berlin Wall Memorial Museum and Checkpoint Charlie Museum
- Day 3:** Topography of Terror Museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and Olympic Stadium
- Day 4:** German Historical Museum and Berlin Zoo, return flight to London Heathrow

Please note the order of these activities may change owing to availability of places on certain days. Included in the cost of the trip are flights with British Airways, coach and train travel around Berlin, excursion fees, accommodation, breakfast and evening meals. The cost also includes funds for insurance, coach travel to and from Heathrow Airport and evening activities. Students will need to bring additional spending money for lunches, which will be discussed nearer the time of the trip at an information evening in June 2019.

The total cost of the trip is £564. If you would like your child to take part in the trip please use the Parent Pay system to place a non-refundable deposit of £100 and send in a photocopy of your child's passport, clearly labelled with their name and form to Student Services. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and the closing date is Monday 15th October. Please contact the Finance Office should you require any further information with regard to payment for the trip.

I do appreciate that the turnaround of this is fast, but this is due to the fact that our travel company are holding hostel places and flight reservations for us and we need to confirm with them as soon as possible. If there are more applications than places available, the students after the first eighty deposits received will be placed on a reserve list. The History Department reserves the right to refuse a place on the trip to any student whose behaviour is a cause for concern. Please be aware that in the event of your child being removed from the trip due to poor behaviour, European Study Tours will not be able to refund the cost of the trip. I must also remind students that their sensible behaviour on the trip is crucial and there will be consequences for those who do not follow the rules.

Once we have accepted the deposit then you are committed to the trip; but of course, in exceptional circumstances please do not hesitate to contact the school. The balance of payment for the trip is due by the end of March 2019 and Student Services will send further details regarding this. All students will need to have a passport valid for at least six months from the departure date and a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which may be obtained free of charge online. According to the most recent guidance, these cards will still be valid during our visit. Please may we ask you to check that your child's passport is well within date and renew it as soon as is possible if this is not the case.

Please note the final flight prices for July 2019 are not yet available and this could increase the price by a small amount. I will of course keep you informed of any changes. If you have any queries about this trip, please contact me via the school Parent Mail system.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Williams
Head of History