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Letter 41

8th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 and 12 RE/Philosophy Trip to Rome 15th to 18th July 2019

The RE Department would like to take forty GCSE Religious Studies and A-Level Philosophy students on an educational tour of Rome. Students will visit various places of interest and religious importance. The visit aims to enhance the students' understanding of Christianity as well as the impact of religion on the region. Both of these elements are key to the GCSE examinations and are considerations for the A Level Philosophy course as well, although I wish to make it clear that no student will be at an educational disadvantage should they not attend the trip.

The proposed itinerary is:

Day 1: Flight to Rome. Own sightseeing to the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps.

Day 2: Guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel.

Day 3: Guided tour of the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

Day 4: Guided tour of the Capitoline and Campidoglio Square. Flight back to Luton.

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 Easyjet, metro travel around Rome, excursion fees, accommodation, breakfast and evening meals. The cost also includes funds for insurance and evening activities. Students will need to bring additional spending money for lunch, which will be discussed nearer the time of the trip at an information evening in June 2019.

The total cost of the trip stands at £557. If you would like your child to attend this 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 Friday 12th October. Please contact the Finance Office should you require any further information with regards to the payment of 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 forty will be placed onto a reserve list. The RE Department reserves the right to refuse a place on the trip to a student whose behaviour, attendance or health is a cause for concern. Please be aware that in the event of your child being removed from the trip due to poor behaviour or attendance, WST School Travel 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 2018 and Student Services can provide 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 can be obtained free of charge online. 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 A Littlejohn
Head of RE