

The Hemel Hempstead School

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Letter 29

4th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE History Trips to Berlin 16th - 19th July and 17th - 20th July 2022

The History Department would like to take eighty Year 10 GCSE History students on an educational tour of Berlin. Students will get to visit various sites of interest and historical importance. The visit aims to enhance students' understanding of life in Nazi Germany as well as the impact of the Cold War on Berlin, which are key topics in the GCSE examinations. I wish to make it clear that no student will be at an educational disadvantage should they not attend the trip; the trip serves to enhance their understanding of the topics studied, but is not essential. As there will be such a large number of students attending, they 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. Groups will be staying in different accommodation, but both will be in the city centre.

The proposed itinerary is:

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

Included in the cost of the trip are flights with British Airways, coach and train travel around Berlin, excursion fees, tour guides, 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 lunch. There will be a parent information evening in June 2022 to discuss arrangements further.

The cost of the trip is £568. Please note final flight prices for July 2022 are not yet available and this could increase the price by a small amount, but this is unlikely. We will inform you immediately if this is the case. 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 to Student Services. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once places are filled, any additional students wishing to attend will have their names added to a reserve list. The closing date is **Friday 18th October 2021**. Please contact the Finance Office should you require any further information with regards to the payment of the trip.

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I do appreciate that the turnaround of this is fast, but this is because our travel company is holding hostel and flight reservations for us. I must point out that the History Department reserves the right to refuse a place on the trip to a 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.

By making the £100 non-refundable deposit to the school, you are entering into a contract with the school to pay the remaining balance of £468 by 22nd April 2022.

Should a student be withdrawn from the trip after 18th October 2021 but before 22nd April 2022, monies paid by you will be returned to you, less:

- The £100 deposit (as the deposit is not returned to the school by the tour company) unless there is a replacement student
- Any non-recoverable costs incurred by the tour company (accommodation, flights)

There may also be a change of name fee from the tour company (if there is a replacement student) if airline tickets have already been issued. This could be in the region of £120.

Should cancellation be notified to the school after 22nd April 2022, the school will do all that it can to recover monies from the Tour Company but this will be subject to the above points.

The exception to the above is if the cancellation is due to a medical reason. Under these circumstances, a medical certificate must be provided to the school at your expense, as these are no longer refunded by our insurers.

Any notice of withdrawing students from the trip must be made in writing to the school finance office. Cancellation will only be deemed to have taken effect when confirmed by the school finance office.

At present, there is no new guidance regarding travel post-Brexit other than that students will need to have a passport valid for at least 6 months from the departure date. European Health Insurance cards are valid until their expiry date. I will inform you immediately of any changes and advice from European Study Tours. Please check that your child's passport is well within date and renew it as soon as possible if necessary.

If you have any queries about this trip, please contact me via the school Parent Mail system.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Williams
Head of Humanities