

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

VISIT TO USA – Friday 10 February 2023 – Thursday 16 February 2023

Plans are now being made for a school visit to the USA, visiting New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia. The holiday is being offered to students who are currently in Year 9 and Year 10, This will take place in the February half term, from Friday 10 February – Thursday 16 February 2023

The visit is being organised with Equity, who are ABTA/ATOL bonded. Given the situation with COVID 19 and international travel, we are anticipating that we will be able to travel to the USA in 2023. However, our package comes with a Covid guarantee, details of which can be found on the school website.

The package also includes insurance, details of which can be found at this web address: [STF Travel Sure | ABTA](#)

You are, of course, welcome to make your own additional insurance arrangements if you wish to do so.

We propose taking a party of 40 students on this tour, which will give us the opportunity to experience the destinations and attractions listed below. They would be accompanied by 5 members of staff.

NEW YORK

Empire State Building
New York Public Library
Grand Central Station
Times Square
The Rockefeller Centre
Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
One World Observatory
Wall Street
Ground Zero – 9/11 Memorial Park
Central Park: Imagine Memorial/Bethesda Fountain/Grand Avenue.
Shopping at Macy's, and on Fifth Avenue.

WASHINGTON DC

The Mall – to include the Lincoln Memorial, George Washington Memorial and Reflecting Pool/War memorials, Martin Luther King memorial, and Capitol Hill.
Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
Evening meal at Hard Rock Café
Evening meal on arrival at Harriet's Diner



PHILADELPHIA

We will visit here en-route from Washington DC to New York, with a stop of approximately 2 hours to view the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the famous Rocky Steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The holiday price will be £1520.00 which includes the following:

- ▶ Return flights based on a London departure
- ▶ Return coach transfer between school and airport in UK.
- ▶ Coach transfer between New York and Washington DC, via Philadelphia.
- ▶ Airport coach transfers in New York and Washington DC
- ▶ Bed and Breakfast accommodation – 2 nights WASHINGTON DC and 3 nights NEW YORK, in shared rooms.
- ▶ Attraction costs/entry fees
- ▶ Insurance

**In addition to the tour price, parents will need to budget approximately £30 each day for food and drink to cover lunches and evening meals.

Air Passenger Duty – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Air Passenger Duty (APD) is not charged for children aged 15 years. We have therefore been quoted prices with and without APD. The tour price in the letter DOES NOT include APD. We must bring to your attention that should your child be aged 16 years at the time of travel, APD will be added to the tour price at the following rate:

Band B destinations (over 2,000 miles – all long haul routes) - **£84 per person aged 16. This would be payable in addition to the final payment, which will be made in September 2022

To enable students to participate in this holiday they will require their own up-to-date passport, which must have an expiry date at least 6 months beyond the date of our visit. Students with UK passports also need to apply for an Online Visa Waiver, called an ESTA, for the USA, which currently costs \$14 and is not covered in the tour price. If your child is not a UK passport holder, you may wish to check on entry requirements and visas to the USA at the following web addresses, as you may need to apply for a tourist visa which could cost approximately \$160.00. Please bear in mind that there are a range of entry requirements that need to be met for the visa and the ESTA, to be granted. For more details, please visit the websites.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/entry-requirements>,

[For International Visitors | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](https://www.cbp.gov)

Please note that there may be additional costs if Covid Tests are required at the time of the trip.

To enable us to make the booking Equity require an initial deposit of £125.00, which will secure the holiday reservation for each student, and further payments at intervals throughout the coming months. If you wish to apply for a place on the visit to the USA, please be aware of the following details.

The schedule for payments would be: **DEPOSIT BY MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 £125.00**

11 October 2021	£125.00
15 November 2021	£200.00
7 February 2022	£200.00
4 April 2022	£200.00
6 June 2022	£200.00
11 July 2022	£200.00
12 September 2022	£200.00
10 October 2022	£195.00 (**incl APD £279)

Places are limited on this trip to 40 students*. **You must complete the forms application on this link <https://forms.office.com/r/1SUCuBHvRr> or you may hand in the attached application form to Mrs Taylor in the Finance Office before morning break on 1 October 2021.** If the trip is over-subscribed a draw will take place after this date. If you are successful in securing a place on the trip, you will receive further communication inviting you to pay the deposit on the school gateway, with a visa/debit card, by 11 October 2021. If you are unsuccessful in securing a place on the trip, a waiting list will be generated, and offers of places may be made if students later withdraw from the visit, therefore making a space available. We will confirm places after the closing date. Once your deposit is received on the gateway your place is confirmed. If you have not paid your deposit by Monday 11 October 2021 we will offer your place to those on the waiting list. Please let us know, for example, if you wish to withdraw, or have any problems making the payment by the deposit deadline.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIRST £125.00 DEPOSIT TO THE TOUR COMPANY IS NON-REFUNDABLE once your child's place is confirmed. After this time should a student wish to cancel their place on the trip any further monies paid to the tour company is also NON-REFUNDABLE and you may incur further cancellation charges.

Further details of the visit and administrative procedures will be issued to you once the booking is confirmed, but in the meantime if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*The school reserves the right to exclude a student from going on a trip when the student has misbehaved on a previous trip, or whose general behaviour in lessons and around school has been persistently below the standard expected, and when a student could be seen as a risk to their personal safety and the safety of others. In these circumstances all payments that can be recovered will be refunded less an administration fee of £50. Where fees have been incurred which cannot be recovered (for example for flights/visas and accommodation) the school will not make a refund.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Cole

Head of Humanities

NEW YORK TRIP FEBRUARY 2023 – APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS STUDENT DETAILS SHEET IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE AS THE INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR HOLIDAY BOOKING FORMALITIES WITH EQUITY. PLEASE RETURN TO MRS TAYLOR IN THE FINANCE OFFICE BY 1 OCTOBER 2021.

SURNAME:

FIRST NAME (No abbreviations):

CURRENT TUTOR GROUP:

I agree to my child being a member of the visit to the USA and I will ensure that payments are made on the dates shown in the correspondence issued by Miss Cole.

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (including your postcode):

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.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):.....

Please ensure that Miss Cole is informed of any change of student details prior to departure.

STUDENT MUST TRAVEL ON A FULL PASSPORT: PLEASE COMPLETE

MY CHILD HAS AN UP-TO-DATE PASPORT IN HIS/HER NAME: YES / NO
(Expiry date MUST be beyond 6 months of the date of the visit i.e 16 August 2023)

MY CHILD DOES NOT HAVE A PASSPORT AND AN APPLICATION WILL BE MADE BY THE START OF THE SUMMER TERM 2022: YES/NO
(Passport details will be needed for submission to the airline by September 2022).

(Please circle the appropriate response above)

AGE (in years and months) ON 10 FEBRUARY 2023: Years: Months:

PLEASE TICK FOR: APD INFORMATION

I understand I will need to pay APD of £84 as my child is aged 16 or over on the date of travel.

My child will be under 16 when we travel and is therefore exempt from paying APD.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS (if any):

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PLEASE SPECIFY ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

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SIGNATURE: DATE:
(Parent)