6 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

A Level History Trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC 2019

I am writing to you with news of a very exciting opportunity that the History Department is able to offer your son/daughter. The History A Level Curriculum includes the study of American History and so we are now in a position to offer a trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington in October 2019 to visit sites relating to their area of study. This trip is intended to enhance the students understanding of Edexcel Unit 1: ‘In Search of the American Dream, 1917 -1996’ and Unit 3: ‘Britain, losing and gaining an Empire, 1763-1914’ and the attached sheet outlines some of the places that we will visit and their relevance to the history curriculum.

We will depart on Wednesday 23 October 2019 and return on Tuesday 29 October 2019. Subject to changes in flight prices, the approximate cost of the trip is £1372 – should we have sufficient student interest, this cost may be reduced and we will inform you of the final cost once the numbers have been confirmed. The trip is being booked through WST Travel, which is one of the UK’s leading educational travel companies who have a wealth of experience in organising successful educational visits. They work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your son/daughter will get the very best learning experience whilst away.

The cost of the trip includes: return flights from London Heathrow Airport, (we will fly into New York and out of Washington Dulles), same sex bed share accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis and coach transfer from New York to Washington via Philadelphia. Although the final itinerary is yet to be decided, the cost of the trip will also include visits to (in New York) Ellis Island Museum, a guided walking tour of Downtown Manhattan, a visit to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, a Statue of Liberty cruise, a visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia and (in Washington) a 2 hour guided walking tour of the main political sites in Washington including a tour of the Capitol Building, a 4 hour guided walking tour of the main historical sites in Washington, Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture, a visit to the US Holocaust Museum and a visit to the excellent Newseum 11. Students will also have some free time for sight-seeing and shopping.

To secure a place for your son/daughter on this trip, a non-refundable deposit of £100 is required, along with the attached permission slip by Tuesday 8 January 2019. All cheques should be made payable to Rickmansworth School. If there are insufficient contributions, the trip will not take place and refunds will be issued. Once numbers have been confirmed I will arrange a payment schedule, however the final amount will be due at the end of the Summer Term, 2019. It is also now a mandatory requirement when travelling to the USA to register for Electronic Travel Authority and receive travel authorisation via ESTA. There is an online application form available at https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov. A fee of $14 will be charged for each new application or for a renewed ESTA. Should your son/daughter attend the trip, they will need to apply for and pay for this at least 72 hours before travel.
Further details with regards to flight times, a more detailed itinerary and payment schedule will be provided once the booking has been confirmed. The trip will be offered to all students studying History in Year 13 next year. However, there are only 35 places available on the trip, therefore allocation will be on a strictly first-come first-served basis so please ensure your son/daughter returns their reply slip to a member of the History Department as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Should you have any queries regarding the trip please do not hesitate to contact the School. Alternatively you can email me at LCramp@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Cramp
Head of Humanities Faculty
To: Bursar’s Office  
Re: A Level History Trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC 2019

Student Name ……………………………………………………………… (as it appears on their passport)

Form & Teaching Group …………………………………………………

Having read and understood the details of the visit as set out in the letter of 6 December 2018, I wish my son/daughter to participate in the History trip to the USA and enclose a deposit of £100 (non-refundable).

☐ I acknowledge the need for my son/daughter to behave responsibly and agree to the School’s procedures in this respect. Although the staff of the School escorting the party will exercise due care and attention, I understand they cannot necessarily be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury, which may befall my child named above during or as a consequence of the journey and visit.

☐ I understand that upon return to School my child will no longer be under the authority of the School and my child is aware of the arrangements for getting home.

☐ I understand that the School reserves the right to remove any student whose behaviour at School does not meet the standards required of all our students. In such cases any deposits paid will be non-refundable and the full cost of the trip may be payable if a replacement cannot be found.

☐ I understand that I must notify the School Office of any change in the medical condition of my son/daughter, and of any change to the Emergency numbers provided below.

Emergency Tel No 1:…………………………………… Emergency Tel No …………………………………..

Please tick ONE of the following boxes as appropriate:

☐ My son/daughter has a current individual British passport which expires on …………………

☐ My son/daughter has a current individual non-British passport which expires on ……………

☐ My son/daughter does not have an individual passport and will apply for one.

If you would like to inform us of any non-medical concerns that may be relevant regarding your son/daughter's participation in this trip, please give details here e.g. dietary requirements (that School are not already aware of), phobias, sleeping problems, inability to swim etc.

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Parent Signature ......................................................................................................................................................

My email address is....................................................................................................................................................

Please tick against method of payment below:

Online payment: I am registered for the School internet payment facility and would like to make online payments ☐

Cheque payment: please make cheques payable to Rickmansworth School and hand in at the Bursars Office ☐

Cash payment: please hand in with this slip at the Bursars’ Office ☐

Pupil Premium: I am in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding ☐

If the payment is in cash and over £20 a receipt MUST be obtained from the Bursars Office. Cheque and cash payments MUST be placed in an envelope clearly labelled with the Student’s name and the payment reference. Thank you.