March 2019

Dear Parents

**History trip to Berlin, October 2019**

The History department is planning a trip to **Berlin** for the October half term 2019, departing on the **19 October** and returning on the **23 October**. The trip is designed to support the History curriculum followed in Key Stages 3, GCSE and A-level, and will contain a mixture of sites related to WW2 and to the experience of Berlin during the Cold War.

This is a change to the previously advertised program where we had intended to visit New York; please rest assured that we worked hard to make a viable trip but under current conditions it proved prohibitive due to value for money.

Please note that the History department are also planning a trip to Vietnam between 24 and 31 October 2020. This has been provisionally quoted to be approximately £1800 for the seven nights (full board). This trip will focus upon the Vietnam War, which is part of the syllabus at GCSE and A-Level.

The proposed sites that we will visit on the **Berlin** trip are:

Asisi Panorama

The hugely impressive 360 degrees artistic interpretation of life within divided Germany gives the students the chance to reflect on the daily routine of children and adults through the eyes of an artist who grew up in the wellknown Kreuzberg area of West Berlin. This alternative view from ‘X-Berg’, portrays the various elements of life that remain in the memory of the artist, Asisi.

Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Centre

The Berlin Wall Memorial is an open-aired exhibition documenting the impact of a divided city while paying tribute to the victims of Communist tyranny and those who risked their lives for freedom in the Western Block. The Documentation Centre provides the students with an historical overview of events in the build up to the construction of the Berlin Wall until the present day.

Checkpoint Charlie Museum

Checkpoint Charlie, the most well-known of the border crossings between East and West, is now one of Berlin’s most popular tourist attractions. At the Checkpoint Charlie Museum unique artefacts including many of the contraptions used by those who tried to cross illegally, and works inspired by the division, will vividly bring the past to life.

DDR Museum

Beyond the border checkpoints and secret police, this museum displays the everyday economic, social and recreational elements of life on the other side of the wall. It is one of the most interactive museums in the world, where visitors take part and handle the exhibits.

Olympic Stadium, Berlin

A guide will tell you all about the German architectural and sports history of the Olympiastadion, built for the 1936 Summer Olympics, and Olympiapark. The students can see the view from the top of the Glockenturn bell tower and browse the exhibition at the Langemarckhall.

East Side Gallery

East Berliners breached the Wall on 9 November 1989, and between February and June of 1990, 118 artists created unique works of art on its longest-remaining section. This open-air gallery serves as a memorial for freedom.

Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp

The concentration camp at Sachsenhausen was established in 1936 and placed 35km north of Berlin. The students can see the horrifying conditions in which inmates were forced to live, observe the artefacts that victims left behind and consider how modern Germans have tried to come to terms and accept their recent history.

Hohenschönhausen Memorial Centre, Stasi Prison Museum

Between 1951 and 1989 the Stasi secret police used this site as a detention centre for unsentenced suspects. Holding mainly political prisoners, it was infamous for its regime of physical and psychological torture meted out to inmates. It is now a memorial museum with rooms, surveillance technology and interiors as they were before the fall of Communism.

Berlin Television Tower, Fernsehturm

Located on Alexanderplatz the 368 metre tower dominates the city skyline and is the tallest building in Germany. The Tower was built in the 1960’s by the East German Government not least to demonstrate the strength and efficiency of the socialist party system. The observation deck at 203 metres includes Berlin’s highest bar and there is a revolving restaurant at a height of 207 metres. The TV tower is both a symbol of the Cold War and of a reunited Germany.

Insurance

This trip is covered by the school’s annual travel insurance. This includes unlimited cover for medical expenses.

Full details of the insurance can be found on the Parent Portal.

Pre-existing medical conditions are covered provided that the travel is not against doctor’s orders. We recommend that, if a pupil does have a pre-existing condition which a parent may be worried about that they seek their doctor’s permission to travel (preferably in writing).

The school will not make claims for items such as laptops, PDAs, smartphones and cameras and other expensive personal possessions and other expensive personal possessions under the travel insurance as we wish to maintain our claim record. Parents should ensure that personal possessions are covered through their own insurance. The school recommends that pupils do not take items of value on any school trip.

The cost of the trip will be approximately **£660** including;

* Flights and coach transfer to the airport(s) ;
* Entrance to all fee charging museums listed;
* 4 nights **full board** accommodation in the **Econtel Hotel Berlin**, which is 4\* accommodation.

Please note that this price is based on a quotation that has a requirement for a certain number of places. The price may vary slightly should the numbers willing to go on the trip deviate from the quotation. I will make you aware of any significant changes to the price before a commitment is made to the trip.

It is proposed to spread the cost as follows:

1. £100 deposit via bank transfer (Wednesday 30 January 2019);
2. £280 billed with Trinity term fees in April 2019;
3. £280 billed with Michaelmas term fees in September 2019.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Peter Bucknall**

**Head of History**