



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

October 2017

To parents of Year 9

Re: Proposed trip to USA: New York, Washington DC & Philadelphia

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to formally open this exciting trip to our Year 9 students. The proposed trip is from 16th-22nd July 2018. This one week trip will involve flying to New York, spending two full days visiting some of the key sights of the city, a stop-over afternoon visit to Philadelphia and then two full days in Washington DC where we will then fly back to the UK. This will be for students in Years 9-12 and in partnership with our sister school, Queen Mary's High School.

The trip will be with the well established school tour company, Equity. The cost of the trip is **£1,950 pp** based on 25 pupils going. I have included a payment schedule with this letter. If need be we can take more pupils than this. The single biggest cost of the trip are the flights. Unfortunately, airlines have not yet released their prices/ scheduled this far in advance. Equity have tried to predict with confidence the flight price. However, should airline prices be higher than expected, then the tour price may increase. We do not anticipate this will happened but I should make you aware of this possible scenario. Included in the price are: all transport costs: airport transfers, flights, travel while in the USA, breakfast, lunch & evening meals, entrance fees, travel & medical insurance, Air Passenger Duty and accommodation. You will need to have a valid passport and obtain an ESTA visa at around \$14, and bring provision for meals in the outward and return journey (likely at the airport) plus whatever pocket money your child would wish to bring.

The provisional itinerary is as follows:

Day 1: UK coach transfer & fly out to New York City

Day 2 & 3: Two full days in NYC visiting: Empire State Building & Grand Central Station, Lower Manhattan & 9/11 memorial, Times Square, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty cruise, Guggenheim Museum, Central Park & 5th Avenue.

Day 4: coach transfer to DC via an afternoon stop at Philadelphia visiting The Liberty Bell

Day 5 & 6: Two full days in Washington DC visiting: The White House Visitor Centre, Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, The Mall, The Newseum, Capitol Building tour, DUCK amphibious tour and shopping opportunity in upmarket Georgetown.

Day 7: return flight from DC to the UK and then return to school.

Payment schedule:

	amount	Due by
Deposit	£200	3 rd November 2017
2	£250	10 th December 2017
3	£250	10 th January 2018
4	£250	10 th February 2018
5	£1000	10 th March 2018

The deposit for this trip £200 and is due by 3rd November along with Form 3 filled in. Please note that this deposit is non-refundable once your child's place on the trip has been confirmed. In the event that your child is withdrawn from the trip, either by you or the school, you will be liable for costs in accordance with Equity's cancellation policy, unless there is a medical emergency which can be claimed via insurance or a replacement member of the party can be found. We are not responsible for the lost or damage of

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2PG

T: +44 (0) 1922 720696 w: www.qmgs.org

e: postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk  @qmgs1554

personal items such as phones & electronic devices that students may want to bring with them. Should there not be enough student uptake and the trip then cancelled, your deposit will be refunded. Accommodation in New York is based on the Comfort Inn near Times Square and the Harrington Hotel in central DC. Bedding is based on pupils sharing queen sized beds, as is the norm for school groups in US hotels. If we were to book individual rooms for each person then the cost of the trip would be significantly more.

We have tried to keep costs to a minimum and to offer an exciting opportunity for your child. Should you have any questions relating to this visit, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Reynolds at the school.

R P Reynolds
Head of History & Trip Organiser

.....
USA: New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC
Please return to Mr Reynolds at the school along with your Form 3 filled in.

Pupil's Name _____ Form _____

I wish my child to be considered for a place on the proposed tour to the USA.
I confirm I have paid the initial deposit of £200 via Parent Pay.



Queen Mary's Grammar School
Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

Parental Signature _____ Date _____

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2PG
T: +44 (0) 1922 720696 w: www.qmgs.org
e: postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk  @qmgs1554