

Proposed trip to New York and Washington February 2019



January 2018

Dear Parents

Proposed Trip to New York and Washington February Half Term 2019

After enjoying a successful trip with 50 pupils to New York and Boston in 2015 we would again like to offer a similar trip for the February half term holiday of 2019. I am confident that this trip will offer pupils a fantastic educational experience as it will give them an opportunity to explore a variety of different locations on the East Coast of the United States. Travel will be by air from Heathrow to New York and then by coach to other destinations. **This trip is only available for pupils who are currently in Years 7, 8 or 9.**

The itinerary can only be provisional at the moment, but our tour operator has suggested the following:

- Day One:** Depart from London to New York arriving early afternoon. Book into the hotel and then an evening sight-seeing tour.
- Day Two:** A full day to explore New York including a boat trip to Liberty Island and Ellis Island and a walking tour taking in the 9/11 Memorial, Wall Street and the Trump Building! Evening – Possible optional visit to The Empire State Building or more sightseeing.
- Day Three:** A second full day to explore New York taking in 5th Avenue, Central Park, Broadway and Times Square, the United Nations Building and the New York Central Library. This day could include optional excursions to The Museum of Natural History, the Rockefeller Centre or the NBC Studios Tour.
For the evening, an optional trip to a basketball match or possibly a Broadway show.
- Day Four:** Transfer by coach to Washington DC. With a stop at Philadelphia to See Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.
Evening – check in to hotel followed by a walk to see the Washington memorial and the White House.
- Day Five:** A full day to explore Washington DC. This could include the Smithsonian Museums the Ford Theatre (site of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln) a walk to the Lincoln Memorial and the World War 2 and Vietnam War memorials with possible optional excursion to The Spy Museum.
- Day Six:** Walking tour to take in The Old Post Office with views over the whole of central Washington The Capitol Building, Library of Congress and the Museum of the

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American Indian.

Finally, a transfer to the airport for an overnight return flight to the U.K.

Day Seven: Arrive in the UK and coach transfer to Test Valley School.

I appreciate that this trip is expensive and so far I have only received a provisional costing from the tour operator. The price quoted is £1080 per pupil. This price includes accommodation, flights, coach travel to and from the UK airport and to Washington DC from New York, subway fares in New York and the tour of Liberty and Ellis Island, **current** airport taxes, and fully comprehensive insurance, but it does **NOT** include meals. As is common with trips to the United States, meals can be eaten in the hotel or at restaurants located close to the hotel. Meals are fairly cheap and portions are extremely generous. As a rough guide, pupils would need about £25 per day for all meals. Any optional trips mentioned in the itinerary are also not included in the above price so pupils will need to save a little more for any of the optional trips that interest them.

If you wish your child to take part in this exciting and educationally enriching opportunity, please return the attached slip to the school office with a first non-refundable deposit of £150 (cheques made payable to 'The Test Valley School') by **Friday 9th February**. Once you have paid the non-returnable deposits, you are committed to pay the full cost for this trip as we engage and pay through a travel agency so normal cancellation fees apply. The only exception is for a serious illness. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

£150 first non-returnable deposit	Friday 9th February 2018
£150 second non-returnable deposit	End of March 2018
£150 third non-returnable deposit	End of April 2018
£120 fourth non-returnable payment	End of May 2018
£120 fifth non-returnable payment	End of June 2018
£120 sixth non-returnable payment	End of July 2018
£100 seventh non-returnable payment	End of September 2018
£100 eighth non-returnable payment	End of October 2018
£70 Provisional final payment	End of November 2018

All cheques need to be made payable to Test Valley School and paid into the school office, via Pupil Services or you can use the e-payment system. Obviously, if there is insufficient interest in this trip it will not be able to take place so do give it careful consideration so that I can make a decision about its viability.

Parents should be fully aware that the final acceptance of a pupil on this trip is at the discretion of the school and the behaviour of any pupil during the school year may be taken into account when reaching a decision.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you wish to discuss the visit in further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I Murdoch-Smith

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REPLY SLIP - PLEASE RETURN TO MRS CLELAND IN PUPIL SERVICES

USA Trip 2019

I would like my child to take part in the visit to New York and Washington as described in the letter dated January 2018 and enclose a non-refundable deposit of £150 (Cheques made payable to 'The Test Valley School').

Name Tutor Group

I enclose £150 as the first instalment. I understand this and subsequent payments are non-refundable once a place has been confirmed for my child.

I also understand that if I wish to withdraw my child from the visit, a refund will not be given until my child's place is taken up by another pupil, or we receive a doctor's letter stating that my child is unable to take part in the trip.

Parent name Signed

Address

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Post code Tel no:

- I will be paying later instalments via the e-payment method

- I will be paying later instalments by cash/cheque