

September 2024

Dear Student and Parent

**Year 12 Trip to New York, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Following the enormous success of previous trips to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, the Politics and History Departments of the Associated Sixth Form are delighted to be able to offer this trip again in June/July 2025.

Our Politics A Level Specification includes a component on the USA which incorporates studying the politics and institutions of the American system. The trip is also very relevant to History A Level students as it enhances their study of modern Britain, 1951 and 2007, a period of significant developments in UK-US relations. We believe that visiting the USA is an invaluable experience for students, and something that would bring both courses alive and inspire a greater understanding of the politics and history of America.

We will be visiting New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia and have arranged tours of the Supreme Court, Capitol Building and Library of Congress together with visits to the Empire State Building, a ferry to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and the National Constitution Centre together with other excursions relating to our course.

We are hoping to travel with British Airways from Heathrow Airport to New York on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June and returning from Washington DC on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Cost**

We have struggled with the cost of the trip, hence our delay in releasing this letter. We have tried everything we can to lower costs without losing the essence of the trip, but this is the current market rate. The total cost is dependent on the number of students that attend. However, the cost will be £2250.00 which is fully inclusive of:

- Flights from Heathrow Airport with British Airways
- UK and US transfers
- All excursions as above
- Twin room accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
- 5 x evening meals
- Tips
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance

In addition to the tour cost, your child will need approximately \$12-\$15 per day for a 'grab and go' style lunch.

### St Aidan's ParentPay / How to Reserve a Place

To give parents time to discuss the New York trip with their child in conjunction with the other trip opportunities available in the Associated Sixth Form, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October and close at 16:00 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Please note the trip is **not** available on the St John Fisher's ParentPay. If you require an activation code for the St Aidan's ParentPay, please email [parentpay@staidans.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@staidans.co.uk) prior to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. It is important to include your child's name in the email.

Following your discussions, if your child would like to apply for a place on the trip, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of **£350.00 by 12noon on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay whilst making your deposit payment. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing for your child to take part on the trip, the cost, and confirming that their medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 12:00noon on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024, all students will have an equal chance of being successful.

If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator and parents will be advised on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024** if a place has been reserved or if the student has been added to a waiting list.

### Instalment Payments

The final price of the trip will be confirmed in April 2025 when we have the final numbers of students attending and the associated costs of the trip. The payments are as follows:

Deposit payment	£350.00 by Monday 7 October 2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	£475 by Thursday 28 November 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> payment	£475 by Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup> payment	£475 by Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Final payment	£475 by Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each deadline date together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

### Important Financial Information

Please note that payments made for this trip are non-refundable as we are bound by the booking conditions of our suppliers.

Whilst we offer instalment payments for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws after Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges imposed on us by European Study Tours if your child withdraws, unless together we can find a replacement student. We therefore ask that you take the time to discuss this trip in detail with your child to make sure they are fully committed before you make any payment.

### Passports

Students will need their own valid passport valid for the duration of the stay in the United States. Please note if your child does not hold a British passport, it is your responsibility to request the relevant visas to travel to Europe.

Students will need to apply for an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation ([ESTA](#)) through the Visa Waiver Programme, which allows travel to the US for up to 90 days. The cost of this is approximately £15.00. **Please do not apply for the visa before your son/daughter's place on the trip is confirmed.**

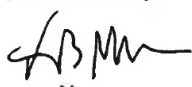
### Behaviour

School residential trips form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and when accompanying students on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. Trips away from the normal school environment involve considering different routines and environments and students must be able to demonstrate an increased level of responsibility and maturity. To participate in any trip, the school staff must be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Please note this trip operates a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol. We reserve the right to send home any student who we regard as having breached this rule which may require contacting parents to collect their child. The Headteacher would like to make clear that failure to observe this rule will potentially jeopardise a student's place in the Sixth Form.

Should you have any queries about the trip prior to paying the deposit or have concerns about making the deposit payment at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact either Victoria Goold, the Trips Administrator, ([trips@staidans.co.uk](mailto:trips@staidans.co.uk)) or myself ([f.murray@staidans.co.uk](mailto:f.murray@staidans.co.uk)).

Regards



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St Aidan's High School



Mr M Melville  
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St John Fisher's High School