



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I am enclosing a summary of residential visits that will be available to students in years 7 to 11 over the course of the next school year. Letters about individual trips will come out in due course from staff who are organising and leading the trips. I thought it might be helpful for you to have this summary of what is available for your child's year group.

Some of the visits are long standing fixtures on our school calendar. Others are new, as we are keen to expand opportunities for students to develop their education outside of school, in a residential setting. In addition to these residential experiences, there are, of course, many other out of school activities and opportunities that staff will publicise throughout the year which I hope many students will access.

I am conscious that some of the residential visits are very costly. The school works hard to find the best value for money for all of these experiences. To try to make these opportunities accessible to as many students as possible, there are certain things that we can do to help, which I would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, we can be very flexible with the payment schedule. As you will see, some of the visits are scheduled for the spring term 2017 and some for the summer term 2017. Typically, we will require a deposit to secure a place on the trip. This is because the school usually has to pay a large, non-refundable deposit to the travel company organising the trip, very early in the process. The deposit also shows a commitment to the trip from each family. We will try to make deposits a reasonable amount and allow reasonable time for deposits to be sent to the school. If anyone has a good reason why the deposit cannot be paid by the required date, but still wishes to access the trip, please write to the trip organiser, at the time of application, explaining the detail of your circumstances.

Thereafter, we will space the payments over the period of time up to the departure date. In the overwhelming majority of cases, full payment will need to be made by the departure date. Again, if your financial circumstances mean that you cannot pay in full by the required date, please write to the trip organiser, at the time of application, explaining this and, on a case by case basis, we will extend the payment period well beyond the departure date.

Finally, if your financial circumstances mean that you simply cannot meet the full cost of the trip, even with a long payment period, but you would like your child to attend, please write to the trip organiser to explain the detail of your circumstances. If you feel you are able to meet part of the cost, it would be helpful if you could indicate this in your letter. Again, on a case by case basis, we will try to find a way to support your child's participation through access to a hardship fund.

We will not operate any 'first come, first served' system for allocating places for residential visits. Once all deposits have been received by the due date, we will look at numbers and where trips are oversubscribed, we will use a fair system to allocate places, including reviewing who missed out in previous years or drawing names out of the hat. We will also keep reserve lists in case someone drops out of a trip.

I hope the enclosed summary and explanation of how we intend to operate residential visits over the next year is helpful and indicates the school's desire to help as many students as possible to take advantage of some of these opportunities. Separate information will also be sent out about Sixth Form visits but the same principles will apply.

Yours sincerely

D McKeating
Senior Assistant Headteacher





St Mary's Residential Trips 2016-2017

Trip to....	Purpose/Type	Numbers	Year Groups	When	Cost
Thurston, Lake District	Outdoor Activities	40 approx	8-9	October By coach	£300 approx
A-level English and Drama to London	Drama / Lit focus	25	12/13	December 3-5	£280
French Alps	Skiing	40 approx	9	February 1 week by air	£830 approx
France and Belgium	First World War battle fields	40 approx	10	February 4 days by coach	£320 approx
France	Cultural exchange	25 approx	9	March 1 week by air	£180 approx
Holland	Sports Trip	40	8 & 9	April 1 week by coach/ferry	£450 approx
St David's, Wales	Farm experience for city children	30 approx	7	May 8 days by minibuses	£200 approx
Barcelona, Spain	Spanish Language and culture	50 approx	8	July 5 days by air	£650 approx
Normandy, France	French Language and culture	50 approx	7	July 4 days by coach	£350 approx
English Language Writers' Retreat	Coursework / creative writing weekend	20 approx	12	7-9 July	£90 approx
Taize	Pilgrimage	30 approx	10-12	July 1 week by coach / ferry	£300 approx