

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



September 2019

Dear Parent(s)

### RE: Year 11 and Sixth Form Visit to Berlin 5<sup>th</sup> December – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019

I am pleased to let you know that we are planning an extra-curricular trip to Berlin from **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019** until **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019** for students who are either taking their GCSE in this year or who are in the Sixth Form.

Visiting Germany will give the students ample opportunity to communicate in German and to practise their skills of reading in German and listening to German being spoken, which are all very important skills for their German GCSE and A-Level examinations. Furthermore, the topics "The Cultural Life of Berlin" and "The German Reunification" form part of the A-Level German syllabus, and the students are also studying a film for their AS and A-Level examinations, which is set in East Berlin in 1984. Therefore visiting Berlin will also give the students the opportunity to experience first-hand what they are studying in the classroom. This will no doubt be very beneficial for their exam revision, as by going on this trip, they experience more than just the factual information in the textbook - seeing the city and learning about its rich culture and history whilst being there will undoubtedly be a very intense learning opportunity in itself.

The cost of this trip will be **approximately £450**, depending on the number of students who wish to participate and depending on the fluctuating flight costs. This cost includes **all** flights, transfers, excursions and entry fees to places of interest, B&B accommodation in multi-bedded bedrooms, insurance and staffing costs (1 teacher per 10 pupils). However, students will have to buy their own lunch and dinner each day.

The itinerary is still subject to change, but we intend to visit the following sites:

- Berlin Wall Memorial
- Eastside Gallery
- Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate
- Holocaust Memorial
- Deutsches Historisches Museum
- Hohenschönhausen (Stasi Prison)
- Topography of Terror
- Berlinische Galerie
- Christmas Markets
- Museum and memorial of Nazi resistance

This trip is open to German GCSE and A-Level students, but also to any student in the Sixth Form. However, as this trip is mainly aimed at students studying German, these students will be given priority when signing up. Any remaining spaces will be filled on a first come first serve basis and there is a maximum of 20 places.



Should your son/daughter wish to go on this trip, a **£150 non-refundable** deposit is required at this stage to secure a place. The **priority deadline for payment is Monday 16th September 2019 for all students who are studying A-Level German at the moment**. If any places remain available after this date, they will be offered to all other 6<sup>th</sup> form students on a **first come first served basis, at which point a space for a German student cannot be guaranteed any longer**.

**Payment of this deposit must be paid via WisePay**. You will find this item under the 'Trips and Visits' icon on your WisePay homepage, if you have any difficulty in accessing your account please contact Mrs Howley in the Finance Office.

Additionally, in order to book a place for your son/daughter, **I must receive a coloured photocopy of their passport and EHIC card** to check that it is valid and to take a copy to include with our booking form to the Tour Operator. Please ask your son/daughter to bring this to me personally **after** the deposit payment has been made but **no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. If you do not have access to photocopying facilities, Mrs Howley in the Finance office will be able to make a copy, though your son/daughter will have to bring the original documents into school. If your son/daughter does not hold a UK passport at this time, then it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure they are familiar with Germany's visa requirements and to organise any necessary visa if needed. Students without the necessary travel documentation will not be allowed on the trip and will in that instance lose their payment.

You will understand that staff remain in loco parentis throughout the duration of all school trips. We will need to be confident that each pupil will respond to expectations and adhere to school rules.

I am convinced that this trip will be a fantastic study opportunity for your child and that your child will hugely benefit both from a language as well as a cultural point of view. Therefore I am hopeful that it will be possible for your child to take part in this venture.

Yours sincerely,

V. Cavalier  
(Head of German)

