

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Berlin Trip January 2024 – Year 13 History and Politics Students

We are pleased to share that we are planning to run a trip to Berlin in January 2024 for Year 13 students who study either History or Politics. The trip is currently scheduled to take place from Wednesday 17th January to Friday 19th January 2024. This overlaps with non pupil day to minimise the impact on teaching time and takes place after mock exams.

The trip itinerary is currently being finalised with the help of our tour operator and will focus on key themes that support the A Level specifications for both subjects. History students will benefit from a deeper understanding of Communism and the Cold War era, whilst Politics students will develop a deeper understanding of the growth of Socialist ideology and the links key thinkers such as Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Marx had with Berlin as well as gaining a deeper understanding of the European Union. The trip will also include opportunities for Politics students to revisit Year 12 themes including elections, political participation and systems of government.

The trip will include a busy programme of activities, both academic and cultural, including visiting the Reichstag building, walking tours, visits to key locations such as the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie as well as the Stasi Museum. A number of other visits are currently being finalised. All of these visits will provide opportunities to enhance students' understanding of the historical and modern day impact Berlin has had on political events and the development of socialist and communist ideologies and regimes.

The total cost of this trip will be in the region of **£695.00**, which includes bed and breakfast accommodation, all transfers, local taxes, entrance and activity costs and evening meals on the Wednesday and Thursday. The exact amount is subject to flight costs which will be confirmed in mid-September. The only elements which are not included are lunch and snacks each day as well as food for breakfast (Wed)/dinner (Fri) whilst we are travelling through airports. There is also the possibility that the new European Travel Information and Authorisation system (ETIAS) will be in place for January 2024, in which case this will also need to be applied for and paid for by each student.

Please note, as **there are a limited number of places available**, the places on the trip will only be guaranteed with receipt of the non-refundable deposit of £200 via wisePAY. Later instalments are expected to be at the



start of October and November. **Places will open on Wisepay on Wednesday 6th September at 1pm**, you will find the item under the "Trips and Visits" section. If you have any concerns about your Wisepay access, please contact mcw@shsb.org.uk. The deadline for making your deposit payment is 9am on Friday 8th September. If your student is unsuccessful in getting a place, they should see Mr Sainsbury to register interest on a waiting list should a place become available at a later date.

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 those who have not demonstrated a sufficiently good record of behaviour may forfeit the opportunity to join the trip. As the trip will be departing during term time your child will also be expected to catch up any missed work on return.

Please review the school's Trip Code of Conduct via the link below, and ensure your child is aware of, and committed to, the required standards of behaviour.

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1070>

If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school's enquiries email.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Sainsbury
Leader of PSHE
Teacher of Politics and Citizenship

Mrs H Foley
Teacher of History