

# 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



December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### Re: Year 12 Politics Students - New York and Washington DC Trip 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Following our successful trip in February 2023 to New York and Washington DC, I am pleased to share with you that we are proposing to run a revised and improved version of the trip in February 2025. There has already been considerable interest from year 12 Politics students who can be credited with influencing the return of this trip. As has previously been the case, Year 12 Politics students will be given priority when signing up to the trip before any remaining places are opened to other students.

The trip includes visits to New York and Washington DC; two American cities which are home to some of the world's most influential institutions. The trip provides fantastic opportunities that complement a number of A Level courses, not only Politics, but also Geography, Economics, Business, History, Art, Drama and so many more. A number of our visits will have a particular focus on global politics and globalisation, however, there will also be opportunities for sight-seeing, shopping and the opportunity to watch a show on Broadway to make the most of our visit.

**The price of the trip will depend considerably on the price of flights. We are currently working on a projected cost of approx. £2225 per student.** This includes flights from London to New York, and a return flight from Washington to London, airport transfers, accommodation in New York and Washington DC, transport between New York and Washington DC, two meals a day (breakfast and dinner), pre-booked visits and tours, a Broadway show and numerous site-seeing opportunities. Whilst elements of the itinerary cannot be guaranteed at this stage due to limits to the extent bookings can be made in advance, the intention is for the itinerary to include visits to the 9/11 memorial and museum, Liberty Island, the United Nations, a walking tour and workshop around the financial district, a walking tour round DC, the White House visitor centre and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The only costs which are not included are the application for an ESTA (approx. £18) or a Visa which needs to be done by the individual travelling (or their parent/guardian), money for lunch each day on the trip and any spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc.

Due to the expected popularity of this trip, places will be allocated on a **'first-come, first served'** basis in terms of deposits paid. A non-refundable deposit payment of £200.00 is required to secure a place for your child. In order to ensure fairness on this occasion, all deposits must be paid via WisePay. In the first instance, the trip will be opened to year 12 Politics students only. **WisePay will be opened for payments at 1.00pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.** Any remaining places will be opened to additional students on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>



December. Please ensure that you have access to WisePay in advance of this date, if you have any difficulties, please contact Mrs Wightman in the Finance Office at your earliest opportunity on [MCW@shsb.org.uk](mailto:MCW@shsb.org.uk).

In the first instance, we will be offering 30 places. When these are gone, students should complete this form to put their names onto a waiting list. If there is sufficient surplus interest, we may be able to expand the trip to accommodate some, or all, of the students who are on the waiting list in the order they completed the form. Additionally, if a space becomes available at a later date for any reason, we will use the waiting list as our first port of call. The waiting list form can be found here and will open when tickets go live on Wisepay - <https://forms.office.com/e/ktr48W9fSG>

The payment schedule including exact dates of the deadlines will be communicated upon confirmation of your child's place on the trip. However, as an indication, the expectation is that the payment schedule will be something along the lines of the table below. The final payment is subject to change as it will depend on any changes to flight costs that are passed on by the tour company.

Month	Amount (*TBC)
Deposit	£200
February 2024	£350
April 2024	£350
June 2024	£350
August 2024	£350
October 2024	£350
November 2024	£275*

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 this expectation, and those who have not demonstrated a sufficiently good record of behaviour may forfeit the opportunity to join the trip.

If you have any further questions regarding the trip, please contact me via the school email, [enquires@shsb.org.uk](mailto:enquires@shsb.org.uk).

Finally, please review the school's code of conduct for offsite visits below:  
<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1070>

Yours sincerely

Mr E Sainsbury

**Leader of Year 12 & Leader of PSHE  
Teacher of Politics & Citizenship**