



Meadowhead School

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Academy Trust

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November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

**A Level History trip to Washington DC
February Half Term 2021**

As part of the History department's enrichment programme, we are arranging a visit to **Washington DC, USA**. As part of the History A level, students will study and complete an examination on the unit; '*In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917-96.*' This unit comprises a study in breadth, in which students learn about the dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the twentieth century. Washington DC is a fantastic location to experience first-hand many of the themes studied in A-Level History and to understand the social and political context of America both then and now. Students who wish to attend this residential visit will be able to visit a range of sites including:

- The Mall including the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument
- Tour of Capitol Hill including both houses of Congress
- The Supreme Court (in session)
- Arlington National Cemetery
- The White House visitor centre
- The National Museum of African American History and Culture

We would encourage all Year 12 History students and Year 11 students who are intending to study A-Level History at Meadowhead next year to consider this trip. **In total there are 15 places available for the trip and these will be offered on a first come first served basis.**

The trip will be from **Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021**. The trip will take place within the February half term holidays in order to avoid interference with other curriculum areas at a crucial time in the year, and at a time when this can be particularly relevant for the June 2021 exam series.

The estimated cost of the residential, based on 15 students attending, is **£979**. We have explored opportunities to find the best value option available to school groups. Although we acknowledge that this a substantial cost, we feel it provides an outstanding opportunity to enrich your son/ daughter's experience of History beyond the classroom. To make the trip more affordable, the cost of the trip will be spread over a number of months, with the final sum due by November 2020. An initial deposit of **£150** will be required to reserve your child's place, followed by ten monthly instalments of **£82.90**. The cost of this visit includes international flight and taxes, accommodation at the Hotel Harrington in the centre of Washington DC, entrance fees to all sites, travel insurance and airport transfers.

Please note that the price excludes the costs of meals and transport within Washington DC. Students are advised they will need around £150-200 spending money for the visit. There is also an additional cost of \$14 for the ESTA visa fee. The final price may change slightly according to advance flight ticket prices. Any changes in the final price will be confirmed once all deposits have been collected and final numbers have been confirmed.

The trip is being booked through *European Study Tours*, one of the UK's leading educational travel companies. More information can be found on their website <https://www.euro-study-tours.co.uk/>. They will work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your child will get the very best learning experience whilst away. Your child will also benefit from expert knowledge from the tour guides at the sites included in the trip.

In order to secure a place for your child on the visit, we would ask that you pay a **deposit of £150** by the **13th December 2019**. Please visit our online payment system <http://www.sims-pay.co.uk> where you will be able to view the trip under the Trips heading and give your consent and make the payment. Please ensure you 'check out' or the consent will not be activated. Further monthly instalments of **£82.90** will then be required by the end of each month from January to October. Please note that if your child is currently in Year 11 and fails to secure a place at Meadowhead School for Sixth Form in September 2020 then they will have to be withdrawn from the trip and will be subject to cancellation fees from the travel company.

Following the launch of our Parent App, we no longer require a separate medical form for this visit, instead please check your child's medical information and contact details are up to date via the Parent App. This information can be found under the Data Collection section and can be updated within the App. By consenting to the visit, you are also confirming that your child's medical information and contact details are up to date, as shown on the Parent App. Please contact the Network Support Team in School if you need any further assistance with this.

It must be stressed at this point that this overseas visit is not a compulsory part of the A-level course, but it is an opportunity to extend your son/ daughter's understanding of the themes taught in lessons and an excellent way for students to experience a fascinating city they may otherwise never have the opportunity to visit. If you have any further questions about details for this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school telephone number above or via email: howardv@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the History department.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Howard

Miss V. Howard
(Subject Leader History)