



October 2023

A Level Politics Trip February 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: A Level Politics Trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC, Wednesday 7th February – Thursday 15th February 2024.

I am writing to you with news of an exciting opportunity that the Politics Department is able to offer your child. The Politics A Level Curriculum includes the study of American Politics, and we are now in a position to offer a trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington in February 2024 to visit sites relating to their area of study.

The trip will depart on Wednesday 7th February and return on Thursday 15th February 2024. The cost of the trip is in excess of £2000, however I am delighted to inform you that I have been successful in applying for funding from the Turing Scheme, which is the UK's global programme for studying, working and living abroad, offering once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for personal and professional development for students. This means that the total cost of the trip for students will be a deposit of just £150. This will cover any charges made by the airline should a student not be able to attend the trip. This deposit will then be used to contribute to additional costs on the trip such as food or subway travel, or it may be refunded at the end of trip if there is any money remaining. The trip is being booked through WST Travel, which is one of the UK's leading educational travel companies who have a wealth of experience in organising successful educational visits. They work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your child will get the very best learning experience whilst away.

The cost of the trip includes return flights from London Heathrow Airport, (we will fly into New York and out of Washington Dulles), accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis and coach transfer from New York to Washington via Philadelphia. Although the final itinerary is yet to be decided, the cost of the trip will also include visits to (in New York) Ellis Island Museum, a guided walking tour of Downtown Manhattan, a visit to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, a Statue of Liberty cruise, a tour of the United Nations, a visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia and (in Washington) a 2 hour guided walking tour of the main political sites in Washington including a tour of the Capitol Building, a 4 hour guided walking tour of the main historical sites in Washington, Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture, a visit to the US Holocaust Museum and a visit to the excellent Newseum. We may also be able to fund some meals and entertainment throughout the trip, however students should budget spending money for food (lunch and dinner) and public transportation. As part of the funding agreement, we will also be spending time

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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in an American school/schools, where the students will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the American educational & political systems. Students will also have some free time for sight-seeing and shopping.

To secure a place for your child on this trip, a non-refundable deposit of £150 is required, along with the attached permission slip, by Monday 30th October 2023. Please also provide a copy of your child's passport when returning the permission slip. If there are any reasons why you will be unable to pay the deposit, or if your child does not hold a valid passport, please contact me directly to discuss this and to make alternative arrangements. Please note that it is now a mandatory requirement when travelling to the USA that all visitors must register for Electronic Travel Authority and receive travel authorisation via ESTA prior to travel.

Passengers who have failed to apply for and receive travel authorisation may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing or be denied admission into the USA. Each ESTA must be applied for individually and there is an online application form available at [Official ESTA Application Website, U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(dhs.gov\)](https://esta.dhs.gov/). A fee of \$21 will be charged for each new application or for a renewed ESTA. Should your son/daughter attend the trip, they will need to apply for and pay for this at least 72 hours before travel.


Please also be aware that students travelling on non-British passports will require a visa to enter the USA, and that it will be the parent/carers responsibility to organise this, although financial assistance may be available as part of the funding received by the school (please contact me directly), please check the US Embassy's website for more information: <https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/>.

Further details with regards to flight times, a more detailed itinerary and payment schedule will be provided once the booking has been confirmed. The trip will be offered to all students studying A Level Politics. However, there are only 35 places available on the trip, therefore allocation will be on a strictly first-come first-served basis so please ensure your child returns their reply slip to me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Places on this trip are not guaranteed and are dependant on good behaviour and a strong commitment to studying, any students not demonstrating this will not be allowed to attend the trip. The highest standard of behaviour will also be expected whilst abroad and representing the school.

Should you have any queries regarding the trip please do not hesitate to contact the school. Alternatively, you can email me at lcramp5.310@parkhighstanmore.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Cramp



Assistant Headteacher

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Reply slip for A Level Politics Trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC, Wednesday 7th February – Thursday 15th February 2024.

Student's full name _____ Form class 12/13 _____



I give permission for my child to attend the politics trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington and I have paid a non-refundable deposit of £150 ☐

I have enclosed a copy of my child's passport ☐

My child does not have a valid passport and I have applied for a new passport in their name ☐

Signed by Parent/Carer: Signature _____

Full Name _____ Date _____

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Ellis Island Museum:

The Ellis Island Museum is a place where the students can learn about Ellis Island's history before, during, and after its use as America's immigration station. The museum tells the stories of why so many people immigrated to America and what became of them after they arrived.

Statue of Liberty Cruise:

The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States and is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. A cruise will offer the students a different perspective of the sweeping Manhattan skyline – a view captured only from the water – and offer them unrivalled views of Lady Liberty herself.

Downtown Manhattan:

Lower Manhattan was the birthplace of New York City. It was first settled in the 17th century, when the Dutch founded the colony of Nieuw Amsterdam on the site of today's Financial District. It boasts a spectacular array of architecture, dense canyons of neo-classic temples and soaring skyscrapers. Amongst other sites we will visit Wall Street, as students learn about the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

The United Nations:

A guided tour offers an exciting opportunity to discover UN Headquarters. One of the Tour Guides will take us on a brief journey through the corridors of international diplomacy. We will learn about the

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history and work of the United Nations and visit the famous General Assembly Hall and Security Council Chamber (meetings permitting).

9/11 Memorial and Museum:

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum commemorates the September 11, 2001, attacks, which killed 2,977 victims, and the World Trade Centre bombing of 1993, which killed six. The memorial is located at the World Trade Centre site, the former location of the Twin Towers, which were destroyed during the September 11 attacks. The Museum displays artefacts associated with the events of 9/11, while presenting stories of loss and recovery.

Independence Hall, Philadelphia:

Independence Hall is the building where both the United States Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were debated and adopted. It is now the centre piece of the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Visit to the Capitol Building:

The United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., is a symbol of the American people and their government and the meeting place of the nation's legislature, the U.S. Congress. The Capitol is a working office building, but it is also the place where visitors from around the United States and the world come to learn about American democracy.

Walking tours Washington DC:

We will tour the important sites that the students have learnt about in their history lessons, we hope to see the Washington Monument, White House, Capitol Building, National WWII Memorial Reflecting Pool, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Pentagon.

National Museum of African American History and Culture:

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. The Museum opened to the public on September 24, 2016, as the 19th and newest museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

United States Holocaust Museum:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum provides for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history. It is dedicated to helping leaders and citizens of the world confront hatred, prevent genocide, promote human dignity, and strengthen democracy.

Newseum 11:

The students will discover five centuries of news history at the Newseum, an interactive museum of news and journalism in Washington, DC. They will see how the Civil War changed journalism in America and follow the story as Americans did in the 1860s. They will be able to peruse the largest collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs and find out how the FBI fights crime in an age of global terrorism and cybercrime. The Newseum's Berlin Wall Gallery includes the largest display of



sections of the Berlin Wall outside of Germany. The Today's Front Pages Gallery presents daily front pages from more than 80 international newspapers. Other galleries present topics including news history, the September 11 attacks, the First Amendment, world press freedom and the history of the Internet, TV and radio.

Arlington National Cemetery:

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 400,000 active-duty service members, veterans and their families. Service to country is the common thread that binds all who are remembered and honoured at Arlington. Students will visit the grave of President John F Kennedy and the tomb of the unknown warrior.

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