



# **PARK HIGH SCHOOL POLITICS DEPARTMENT**

**A LEVEL STUDY TOUR TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON  
DC**

**7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION**



**New York and Washington DC visit (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024)**  
**Student and Parent Information**

The following guide should answer any questions or queries that you may have regarding the trip. Please read this carefully in advance of the visit. I am holding a compulsory parent evening shortly before the visit (**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January from 6:00 – 7.00pm in the school hall**) when you can meet the members of staff attending the trip and ask any questions that you have. You can also contact me at any time on [lcramp5.310@parkhighstanmore.org.uk](mailto:lcramp5.310@parkhighstanmore.org.uk).

**Staff attending the trip:**

Mrs L Cramp  
Mr N Darby  
Ms M Pindoria  
Mr M Whittaker

**Travel Details:**

We will be traveling with British Airways, from Heathrow **Terminal 5**. The students will be expected to make their own way to and from Heathrow (**no transfer is provided**). We will meet in **Zone B**. It is important that students are on time and that they **remember their passports**.

**Flight details:**

BA173 - 07/02/2024 - LHR - JFK - depart 11:20 arrive 14:25  
BA216 - 14/02/2024 - IAD - LHR - depart 18:20 arrive 06:30 (**on 15/02/24**)

I would also like to remind you that it is now a mandatory requirement when travelling to the USA to register for Electronic Travel Authority and receive travel authorisation via ESTA. There is an online application form available at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. A fee of \$21 will be charged for each new application or for a renewed ESTA. Your son/daughter will need to apply for and pay for this at least 72 hours before travel **or they will not be able to travel to the USA**.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

08:00	Meet at Heathrow T5 (Zone B) - Check-In for British Airways Flight BA173 – 23kg of checked in hold luggage per person and one cabin bag. Please refer to the BA website for additional baggage information: <a href="https://www.britishairways.com/en-gb/information/baggage-essentials">https://www.britishairways.com/en-gb/information/baggage-essentials</a> . <b>Please do not be late</b> , we will not be able to wait for any students who do not arrive on time. Students will need money to buy breakfast or snacks at the airport if they have not already eaten. Lunch will be served on the plane.
11:20	Flight departs for NY.
14:25	Arrival in New York JFK airport, meet local representative and coach to transfer to the hotel.
17:00	Check into Hyatt Place New York City and go out for an early dinner (Please note that our accommodation is on a bed and breakfast only basis, lunch and dinner will need to be purchased each day by the students).

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Breakfast at hotel (included).
09:00	Statue Cruise to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Battery Park.
13:30	Confirmed visit to 9/11 Memorial Museum.
PM	Walking tour of the Wall Street area and shopping at the Oculus Shopping Mall.
19:45	Visit to the Empire State Building.
PM	Group to return to the hotel.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Breakfast at the hotel (included).
AM	Group to depart the hotel and proceed to United Nations.
09:00	Arrive at the United Nations Building Visitors Entrance to check in for our Guided Tour.
13:00	Group visit to the Bronx School of Science.
PM	Time for sightseeing.
PM	Group to return to the hotel after dinner (dinner will need to be purchased).

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Check out of the hotel after breakfast (included) – Luggage room requested.
AM	Free time for last minute sightseeing/shopping.
	Group to return to the hotel in plenty of time to collect their luggage and meet the coach.
12:30	Group to join coach and proceed to Washington DC.
18:00	Arrive at Holiday Inn Express Washington DC for 4 nights bed and breakfast accommodation.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Breakfast at the hotel (included).
09:00	2 hour guided National Mall Memorials.
12:00	Confirmed visit to The Holocaust Memorial Museum.
14:45	Confirmed visit to The National Museum of African American History and Culture
PM	Time for sightseeing/shopping.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Breakfast at the hotel (included).
08:00 – 11:15	The Spy Museum – meet our DC school partner, Theodore Roosevelt High School.
11:15 – 12:00	Lunch at L'Enfant.
14:20	Confirmed guided tour of US Capitol Building.
PM	Time for sightseeing/shopping.

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM	Breakfast at the hotel (included).
09:15	University visit: Georgetown University.
12:30 – 13:30	Pan-American Symphony Orchestra performance at Roosevelt High School.
PM	School visit
PM	Group to return to the hotel.

## **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

AM Check out of hotel after breakfast (included).  
08:00 – 11:15 School visit: Theodore Roosevelt High School.  
11:15 – 12:00 Lunch at Roosevelt High School (included).  
PM Group will visit Arlington National Cemetery.  
15:20 Check-In for British Airways flight at Washington airport.  
18:20 Flight departs – BA216.

## **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

06:30 Arrival in UK at London Heathrow airport. **Students to be collected from the airport.**

We will be staying at the following hotels:

### **New York**

Hyatt Place New York City - Chelsea  
140 West 24th Street  
New York  
USA  
Tel: (973) 476-0055

### **Washington**

Holiday Inn Express, Washington DC  
317 K Street NW, Washington DC, District of Columbia 20001  
YSA  
Tel: (202) 770 - 3636

### **Supervision:**

Students will be supervised by adults; however, they will have the opportunity for independent socialising when in the hotel and during their free time. They will be given strict guidelines regarding where they can and cannot go during their free time and they will be asked to stay in groups of at least 4. It should be noted that the students will be briefed regarding what to do in the event of a terrorist situation. If the threat level were revised to 'critical', the trip may be cancelled, or if already abroad, be modified to restricted places rather than following the itinerary. Foreign Office travel advice will be consulted prior to travel and students will be briefed accordingly: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/safety-and-security>.

### **Mobile phones:**

The Headteacher has given permission for the students to bring their mobiles phones and earphones on the trip. In the event that a student uses their phone inappropriately or at a time when they have been asked not to by a teacher, then the school's mobile phone policy will be followed, and the mobile phone may be confiscated.

### **Emergencies:**

The students will be briefed on what to do should they lose themselves from the group. They will also be issued details of the hotel to contact in an emergency. Most mobile phones will work in the USA but using mobile phone data is likely to be very expensive. On the morning of departure and at all other times during the trip, our emergency contact number will be **07438 808402**.

## WST School Travel:

We are travelling with the group 'WST' who have been providing educational travel for more than 30 years. Their team have arranged thousands of successful tours for students from schools and colleges across the UK and the itinerary has been especially designed to enhance the study of American Politics, for more details, please visit WST's website at [www.wsttravel.com](http://www.wsttravel.com)

## Student Checklist

**Before we go, please make sure you have done/packed the following:**

- **Have your passport & ESTA**
- Know who you're sharing a room with
- Have told Mrs Cramp whether you have any dietary requirements (including if you eat Halal food).
- Have told Mrs Cramp whether you have any serious medical concerns
- Have packed your own 'First Aid' kit with plasters etc.
- Have packed any medicines, asthma inhalers or EPIPENS that you need (you must also bring a spare).
- Have got spending money
- Have got your parent's and the school's mobile numbers written down somewhere safe
- Have packed a mobile phone charger

## What to pack:

Students should bring one piece of hold luggage (up to 23kg although they will probably want to bring some shopping back, so allow some weight allowance for this) and one day bag/backpack (up to 40 x 30 x 15cm). As it will be February, the weather is likely to be very cold and/or wet- we will be spending a lot of time outside, we would therefore suggest that all members of the group dress with plenty of layered clothing and check the weather report before packing. **Comfortable shoes are also essential as we will be doing a lot of walking.** Casual clothes can be worn but you should be mindful that we will be visiting some memorial sites therefore please be careful about logos and phrases on items of clothing; clothing should also be discrete. Students will need to bring a couple of sets of smart clothes to wear when visiting schools. The following is a guide to the basics that you will need to pack:

- **PASSPORT (with ESTA or visa applied for)**
- A warm and waterproof coat.
- A couple of pairs of jeans or trousers.
- A warm jumper/fleece.
- T shirts.
- Underwear.
- Sensible and comfortable shoes for walking.
- Further pair of shoes for travel/indoor use.
- Socks.
- Pyjamas.
- Toiletries.
- Lightweight day bag.
- Adaptor plugs.
- Mobile phone/chargers.
- Entertainment and snacks for the air and coach journeys.
- A pen/pencil.
- Umbrella.
- Necessary medication - students must bring at least two inhalers on the trip.

**Currency/Spending money:**

The unit of currency in the US is the US dollar.

As of 10/01/24, £1 is \$1.28.

Please exchange money to US dollars **BEFORE** the trip and remember to bring some sterling for the airport. Students may be able to use their debit cards whilst in the US, however, please remember that they will be charged for each transaction, so it will be cheaper to exchange money before they travel.

Spending money is at your discretion, but students will need enough spending money to buy lunch, evening meals and any other practical items they may require. Fast food and snacks are inexpensive in the USA. I would suggest that students will need no more than \$40 per day for food and snacks.

**Please also budget at least \$30 or £25 for the use of public transport in both NYC and Washington as we will be using the subway/metro.** There will also be opportunities for students to visit the shops.

Therefore, I would recommend that student's **budget approximately \$350 (£275)** for essential items such as meals, snacks and transportation. They will also need additional spending money for any shopping that they plan to do.

**Electricity/voltage:**

Electronic current in the US is mostly 120V, two or three-pin sockets.

**Security:**

Like most major cities there are reported cases of pick pocketing and thefts, especially from popular tourist attractions where large crowds are gathered. It is therefore important that the students stay together in groups and remain vigilant to distraction type thefts or be aware that thieves can inadvertently involve individuals in scams, resulting in thefts.

**Time Zone:**

New York and Washington are 5 hours behind GMT.

**Code of conduct for students:**

In the interest of enjoyment and safety and in the hope that we gain the most from our visit we expect students to adhere to the following standards of behaviour:

**(a) Prior to the visit:**

1. You should familiarise yourself with the programme itinerary.
2. If you have a particular allergy or medical condition about which we should be aware, this should be notified to us as early as possible.
3. Ensure that you have all the correct clothing.

**(b) At your accommodation:**

1. Familiarise yourself with the hotel surroundings and the most direct route to be taken in the event of fire.
2. Do not indulge in smoking or vaping and remember that the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the accommodation or its grounds (or at any other time/place on the trip) is illegal under the age of 21.
3. Do not leave the hotel without a member of staff.

4. Remember that this is also the home of your hosts and that the usual home courtesies are expected.

**(c) In the city and historical sites:**

**General Safety:** Remember that you have a responsibility (a) to yourself, (b) to those around you, and (c) if called upon, to those who might be called in to help you. Please respect the advice of the guides and your leaders however petty some instructions may seem.

**Crossing Roads:** The Americans drive on the right-hand side of the road. Caution must therefore be taken when crossing the road.

**Getting Lost:** At no time should any group split up or any individual select to go off without first asking a member of staff. You will also have an I.D. card with the details of our emergency contact number and hotel details. You must keep this with you at all times.

**Unforeseen hazards:** Considerate and safe conduct must be enforced at all times.

**First Aid:** While we carry a First Aid kit, it is your responsibility to carry your own basic kit of plasters etc. for blisters, cuts etc. as there will be a lot of walking.

**Clothing:** It is absolutely essential that you are prepared for potentially cold and/or wet weather.

**Mobile Phones/money/valuables:** It is your responsibility to look after your own valuables. Please use the safe at the hotel where relevant.

**Sleep:** The days will be long and demanding. You should be in your bed by lights out and sufficiently quiet so that those around you may sleep. You must also stay in your own rooms after the agreed time.

**Food:** The days can be long and demanding. Do not skimp on your food.

In addition to this, you must always follow the advice and guidance given by your group leaders and guides.

**Final Note:**

I am personally very excited by this opportunity; I think it is a fantastic opportunity not only for students, but also for the Politics Department. With support from the parents, students and the many staff that have been involved in its preparation I am sure it will be a great success.

Should you have any further questions, as ever please feel free to contact me at the school.

L Cramp  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Politics.

