



24th January 2019

Amsterdam Tour– October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum, students currently in Year 7 are invited to a four day tour of the city of Amsterdam (when they reach Year 8). The tour will include:

- visiting Vught memorial centre and museum built on a former SS concentration camp.
- exploring the Jewish History Museum and a visit to the Portuguese synagogue
- attending a workshop and opportunity to go around Anne Frank's house.
- a Canal cruise highlighting the history of the city of Amsterdam.
- time in the Rijksmuseum with its outstanding collection of Vermeer and Rembrandt paintings.

The tour will support a range of school subjects, notably Art, English, Geography, History and Religious Studies, allowing your son/daughter to understand a different geographical city, its challenges and solutions; gain a broader appreciation of the history and experience of Jewish communities in Europe with a special focus on the events in WWII; and finally a unique opportunity to study a nation's art collection, including iconic pieces of art, such as Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. The tour is voluntary, however, it is a valuable opportunity to extend classroom learning and develop the skills that help achieve success in school.

The proposed visit will take place from **Wednesday 30th October** until **Saturday 2nd November 2019**. Please note this is **mid-week of the October half-term**. We will depart very early on the Wednesday morning and return late evening on Saturday in order to maximise our time in Amsterdam.

The package is offered by NST Educational Tours, a leading company in this field and the cost, includes travel by luxury coach, crossing, insurance, full board accommodation and all museum and other entry charges. Accommodation is provided at A&O Amsterdam, an excellent centrally located hostel providing easy access into and out of Amsterdam. **The tour will cost £375**, payable in instalments. This does not include spending money (approximately £40).

We need to make our booking soon. So, if you wish your son/daughter to take up this opportunity please return the attached form to the Finance office, together with a **cheque for £50 by Friday 8th February**. This is a **non-refundable deposit**. The number of places available is limited, and therefore we will hold a ballot at 3pm on that day if it is oversubscribed.

However, it is important to acknowledge the importance of this visit and behaviour will be considered when accepting places for the trip and maintaining a place on this trip. The remaining payments will be spread out over the following months, with dates to be advised.



Detailed information on the daily itinerary, accommodation, travel times, etc. will be sent to you in due course. **Please note that your son/daughter will need a full individual passport and EHC card for this trip, so if he/she does not already have one, an application will need to be made. We advise that passports have at least 6 months validity beyond the date we are travelling.**

Yours faithfully

Mr S. Barrett
Subject Leader of Religious Studies



To: Mr Barrett c/o Finance Office
Thamesmead School

Visit to: Amsterdam – 30 Oct – 2 Nov 2019

Please return this form with the deposit no later than **Friday 8th February**

Student's Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

I wish for my son/daughter to take part in the above-mentioned school activity and, having read the information sheet, agree to his/her taking part in all or any of the activities described therein.

I certify that, as far as I am aware, my son/daughter is medically fit to undertake this activity and there are no known health reasons why he/she should not do so.

I understand that while the school staff in charge of the party will take all reasonable care of the children, they cannot necessarily be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury suffered by my son/daughter arising during, or out of, this activity.

I have ensured that my child understands that it is important for his/her safety and for the safety of the group that any instructions given by the staff in charge are obeyed.

Thamesmead will follow government guidance where travel to areas of this country or other countries is either prohibited or not advised. If a trip needs to be cancelled in these circumstances the terms of the insurance policy in place will operate. If you decide that you no longer wish your child to go on a trip you should advise us as soon as possible. We will, however, be unable to refund any monies that you have paid for the trip

I enclose the deposit of £50.00 cash/cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Thamesmead School. (Please do not combine with any other payment to the school).

Signed: _____
Parent/Carer

Date: _____