



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am enclosing a summary of residential visits that will be available to students in years 7 to 10 over the course of the next school year 2019-2020. Letters about individual trips will come out in due course from staff who are organising and leading the trips. I thought it might be helpful for you to have this summary of what is available for your child's year group.

Many of the visits are long standing fixtures on our school calendar. In addition to these residential experiences, there are, of course, many other out of school activities and opportunities that staff will publicise throughout the year and I hope many students will take part in these opportunities.

I am conscious that some of the residential visits are very costly. The school works hard to find the best value for money for all of these experiences. Additional to this, to try to make these opportunities accessible to as many students as possible, there are certain things that we can do to help, which I would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, we can be very flexible with the payment schedule. As you will see, some of the visits are scheduled for the spring term 2020 and some for the summer term 2020. Typically, we will require a non-refundable deposit to secure a place on the trip. This is because the school usually has to pay a large, non-refundable deposit to the travel company organising the trip, very early in the process. The deposit also shows a commitment to the trip from each family. We will try to make deposits a reasonable amount and allow reasonable time for deposits to be sent to the school. If anyone has a good reason why the deposit cannot be paid by the required date, but still wishes their child to take part in the trip, please write to the trip organiser, at the time of application, explaining the detail of your circumstances.

Thereafter, we will space the payments over the period of time up to the departure date. In the overwhelming majority of cases, full payment will need to be made by the departure date. Again, if your financial circumstances mean that you cannot pay in full by the required date, please write to the trip organiser, at the time of application, explaining this and, on a case by case basis, we will extend the payment period well beyond the departure date.

Finally, if your financial circumstances mean that you simply cannot meet the full cost of the trip, even with a long payment period, but you would like your child to attend, please write to the trip organiser to explain the detail of your circumstances. If you feel you are able to meet part of the cost, it would be helpful if you could indicate this in your letter. Again, on a case by case basis, we will try to find a way to support your child's participation through access to a hardship fund.

We will not operate any 'first come, first served' system for allocating places for residential visits. Once all slips have been received to express an interest in the trip by the due date, we will look at numbers and where trips are oversubscribed, we will use a fair system to allocate places, including reviewing who missed out in previous years or drawing names out of the hat. We will then collect deposits in shortly after places have been allocated. We will also keep reserve lists in case someone drops out of a trip.

I hope the enclosed summary and explanation of how we intend to operate residential visits over the next year is helpful and indicates the school's desire to help as many students as possible to take advantage of some of these opportunities.

Yours sincerely

L Knott
ITT/Trips and Visits Coordinator

National Teaching School
designated by





St Mary's Residential Trips 2019-2020

Trip to	Trip Leader	Purpose/Type	Numbers	Year Groups in Academic Year 2019-2020	When	Approx Cost
Thurston, Lake District	Mr Hook	Outdoor Activities	48 approx	Year 8	October 5 days by coach	£375 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities
French Alps	Dr Jankowski/ Miss Knott	Skiing	40 approx	Year 9	January 1 week by air	£1050 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities
Battlefields	Mrs Feekins	History	40 approx	Year 10	March 4 days by coach	£450 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities
St David's, Wales	Miss Jackson	Farm experience for city children	36 approx	Year 7	April/May 8 days by coach	£420 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities
Barcelona, Spain	Miss Mullan	Spanish Language and culture	40 approx	Year 8	June 5 days by air	£690 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities
Normandy, France	Miss Mullan	French Language and culture	50 approx	Year 7	June 4 days by coach	£410 approx Includes accommodation, travel, food and activities