**26th April 2019**

**Trip to the Netherlands November 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Music Department in conjunction with our Chaplain are undertaking a trip to the Netherlands. It is anticipated that the trip will depart on the morning of Saturday 2nd November, returning the evening of Tuesday 5th November. The trip is open to students who are Anne Frank ambassadors, are studying GCSE or A level music or are in Chamber Choir, Vocal Harmony, String Ensemble, Jazz Band or Concert Band

The trip is an amazing opportunity for our musicians and singers to perform 2 short concerts and for our Anne Frank ambassadors to lead the tour of the Anne Frank house as well as sightsee and undertake some excursions in the area. The following excursions are the ones we currently have planned:

Amsterdam Canal Cruise

Zaanse Schans Museum and Verkade Experience

Pancake House visit

Anne Frank House tour (led by our ambassadors)

An evening of bowling

The price of the trip is estimated to be approx. **£465.** The final cost of the trip will be confirmed once final numbers are known. To secure a place, a **£50 deposit** is required via ParentPay. This deposit is **non-refundable.** The deadline for the receipt of the deposit is **20th May 2019**

The price includes accommodation, meals, transport, travel insurance, and entry to all of the visits in the itinerary. In addition, students will need a small amount of spending money for meals on the journey and if they want to purchase souvenirs. It is imperative that all students participating on the trip have both a valid passport and a European Health Insurance Card. Details of how to obtain an EHIC can be found at <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx> or from your local post office.

It is anticipated that the trip will be popular. Places will therefore be allocated according to school policy, with consideration being given to behaviour during previous school trips, as will any outstanding payments on previous school trips. It goes without saying that that the highest standards of behaviour are expected during the trip. ***There are a maximum of 40 places available***. If the demand for places is greater than the 40 places allocated, to ensure fairness, places will be allocated after names have been drawn out of a hat by the school. Those students who do not receive a place following the draw will be placed onto a reserve list.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that following confirmation of a place on the trip, if a student’s poor behaviour results in a member of the Senior Leadership Team being called to their lesson, your child receiving a Senior Leadership Team Friday Night Detention or being internally excluded, then your support will be required to ensure that your child understands the specific expectations that will have to be met for them to be considered eligible for the trip. These expectations are clearly outlined in the School’s ‘Code of Behaviour’ which is detailed within the student planner.

Please note that should a student receive a Fixed Term Exclusion, the Headteacher reserves the right to withdraw the student from the trip. Please note that any student withdrawn from the trip due to poor behaviour will forfeit their deposit and non-refundable monies associated with the trip. On top of a school administration charge of £25, you will also incur any charges from the trip provider for a change of name as a result of your child being removed from a trip.

We are also required by our insurers to remind you that the cost of non-accidental damage caused by any students whilst on the trip will be charged to the parents / carers concerned.

Please refer to our School website for full Educational Visits Terms and Conditions. This document can be found via the ‘Information’ tab and ‘Policies’ section, alternatively, please contact the Finance Office should you wish for a separate copy to be sent to you.

Students are permitted to bring a mobile telephone on this trip. Under no circumstances are students allowed to record images of other students or members of staff. Students will be given specific guidelines as to the use of mobile phones at the start of the trip. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the phone being confiscated and a sanction. St Nicholas Catholic High School will take no responsibility for the safety or security of mobile phones on any school trip.

Parents of students who receive Free School Meals may be eligible for some financial assistance towards the cost of the trip through Pupil Premium. If you require any further information or assistance please contact the Finance Office on 01606 706011. Please note that once students are allocated a place on the trip, it will not be possible to refund deposits, and it is expected that the full cost is met. Therefore places for Year 11s are subject to the student getting into St Nicholas Catholic High School Sixth Form and if unsuccessful in getting into Sixth Form then this deposit is non-refundable.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

H McKenna

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Director of Music