



Headteacher: Mr D Reeve BSc (Hons)

July 2016

History Trip to Berlin March 2017

Dear Parents and Y10 Historians,

As you will doubtless know it has been a tradition now established over many years for the history department to organise a four-day educational visit to Berlin for our GCSE students. This has been tailor-made to fit the history curriculum that students follow at GCSE, with a close focus on Germany 1918-45. When you glance at the itinerary overleaf you will see that it is four days of almost continuous history, and this is why so many of our students have both enjoyed and profited from the experience. The trip will act as an outstanding revision opportunity – refreshing students about the Germany course they studied in Year 9 and 10 prior to their final examinations in the summer of 2017.

The visit is normally organised through one of the country's leading educational travel groups, The City Break Company, and a provisional booking has already been made. Because of the curriculum emphasis of the trip the headmaster generously allows us to depart on the last day of the Easter term, however the visit will also overlap with the first three days of the Easter vacation 2017. The proposed dates for the forthcoming trip are:

Depart London Airport (tbc) – Friday 31st March 2017.

Return London Airport (tbc) - Monday 1st April 2017.

(Precise flights and times are to be confirmed however it is normally an early morning departure and a late return – if flights are unavailable from Stansted (our preferred departure airport), we may use Luton/Heathrow/Gatwick as an alternative, in which case a coach transfer will be provided at no additional cost. In the unlikely case of not being able to secure the desired return flights, we might extend the trip by one day, but only if this has no impact on the price of the trip)

We endeavour to keep costs to a minimum by doing almost all the guiding ourselves but expect that this year it will rise because of increased air fares and the drop in sterling to approximately £631. The precise figure will be determined by how many students wish to join the tour and the cost of flights on the date of final booking. This price includes all travel, a full programme of excursions, insurance, bed and breakfast (in a hotel, close to the city centre) and all evening meals. Students will purchase their own lunches. Where the trip exceeds the initial budget due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. change of travel plans, increase in air flights, exchange rate variation, airport taxes etc.), parents may be asked for a further contribution. However, I will do everything possible to minimise costs and if I can make any savings on this initial estimate, I will endeavour to do so. Any parent in financial difficulties is invited to apply in confidence to the Headmaster. Dependent upon circumstances, the school may be able to assist with a contribution towards the cost. Should funds remain at the end of the trip amounting to less than £20 or 10% of the trip cost per head, they will be put into the school account for the benefit of all pupils (whichever is greater). If funds remaining amount to more than this, a choice of reimbursement to parents will be offered.

Please be aware that students will need their own passports (with 6 months travel on the date of departure) and European Health Insurance cards (EHIC).

If you wish to reserve a place on the visit, please complete the form below and return it with a deposit of £100 (non-refundable unless the trip does not proceed) to **Mrs Kitching** in the school office **as soon as possible** and not later than Tuesday 19th July 2016. Payment may be made either by cheque (with name and Berlin 2017 on the reverse) or via the online "ParentPay" system (our preferred payment system). Flights and accommodation need to be confirmed so I please urge you to meet this deadline. Places are limited and will be allocated randomly amongst students returning deposits by the above date. If there is insufficient interest your deposits will be returned. A payment schedule will be sent out as soon as I know the trip is able to go ahead. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school. There will be of course a Parent Information Evening next year for you to hear more about the excursions and learn about our expectations of the students before we depart.

The School reserves the right to withdraw a student from the trip if their behaviour in school means that they could not be trusted or would be likely to undermine the safety or success of trip for others. In addition, if the trip is oversubscribed, students who fail to show commitment to their studies and meet the expectations of the school in relation to completion of homework, also risk forfeiting their place on the visit. However, I hope that all students will benefit from a fantastic cultural, educational and historical experience. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jesse Dickens, History Subject Leader (jesse.dickens@tbshs.org)

RETURN TO MRS KITCHING IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE – Berlin Trip March/April 2017 (Mr J Dickens)

Full name of pupil (as on passport) _____

D.O.B _____ Form _____ Date of expiry of passport _____

I enclose a deposit of £100 for the Berlin visit 2016/ I have paid a deposit via ParentPay (delete as applicable).

I understand that participation depends on satisfactory conduct and commitment to studies over the coming year.

Signed Parent/Guardian _____



Excursion Details and Example Itinerary

In 2017, it is proposed to follow a broadly similar itinerary to the 2016 version outlined below. However, this is subject to availability and there may be some minor amendments.

Day One

- 10.00am Arrive Berlin
- Following check-in group to spend afternoon independently exploring Berlin, on foot and using public transport. Visits to include the area around **Potsdamer Platz** and **Unter den Linden** and sections of the **Berlin Wall**. Site of **Hitler Bunker and Chancellery**. Includes entrance to **Topography of Terror** (former Gestapo HQ), **Checkpoint Charlie Museum**. Guiding by TBSHS staff.
Visit to the German Historical Museum exhibition on the Weimar Republic
- 17:30 Evening meal at the hotel followed by showing of “**The Counterfeiters**” set in Sachsenhausen during WWII.

Day Two

- 09:00 Coach to depart Hotel for full-day excursion.
- Visit **Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp**. Guiding by TBSHS staff. The Memorial and Former Concentration camp is spread over a large site. All information is given in German and English.
- Continue onto **Platzensee Prison**, the memorial for the victims of Nazism.
- 16:00 A visit to the **German Resistance Museum**. Students will hear about the famous Stauffenburg Plot, as well as other resistance groups such as the White Rose Movement.
- 18.00 Evening meal followed by walking tour of **Jewish Berlin** including Oranienburgstrasse.

Day Three

- 09:00 Coach to depart Hotel for full-day excursion.
Following a visit to the **Treptower Soviet Memorial**, the coach will stop at **Schloss Cecilienhof**, the site of the Potsdam Conference of 1945.
- Stop at **Platform 17**, Grunewald Station, site of Jewish deportations.
- Continue onto the **Olympic Stadium** where the group will visit the Bell tower and consider Nazi racial ideas and the power of propaganda
- 15:00 Visit to the **Jewish Museum**.
- 20:00 Bowling has been booked for the group at **Alexanderplatz**.

Day Four

- 9.00 Visit to **Reichstag** including Foster Dome. Stops at **Brandenburg Gate** and **Holocaust Memorial**. Guided tour at the **City of Berlin Museum** (focusing on the exhibitions of 1918-1945). Visit to the Nuclear Bunker.
- Lunch on **Kurfurstendamm**. Free time – until return to hotel, check out and flight to London