



March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for your patience whilst we have been working to find the best solutions for the New York trip due to depart in July 2021. Having talked through our options with our travel company and key leaders in the school, we have reached the decision that the New York trip will **not** be taking place this year. Whilst things in the UK have improved, international travel is still an uncertainty and we strongly feel that we are not in a position to take the risk to continue with the trip as planned.

As a result, we are thrilled to inform you that we have successfully managed to reschedule our trip for the 15th – 19th July 2022. As cancelling the trip would have had significant implications for returning deposits that have already been paid to the tour company, by rescheduling it gives us as a College the flexibility to deal with the logistics of students who would still like to take part on the trip, and those who do not. We also felt that after such a challenging year and students having missed out on so many opportunities and milestones in their academic career, that providing a rescheduled date was the least students deserve.

In rescheduling the trip we have been able to use the funds initially paid from the deposits collected last year when the trip was first advertised. At this point in time, we do not need to make any further payments to the tour company, and all additional funds paid by individuals remain safe in the New York account at St Mary's College.

We are aware that due to the current climate of the pandemic, and the significant period of time between students first signing up for the trip and when the trip will actually be able to depart, that some students may have made the decision that they would no longer like to keep their place. Students in Year 12 on the trip will be able to choose whether they would like to reschedule. Should a student not wish to participate, we will endeavour to return all monies, including the non-refundable deposit. We ask for your patience over the coming weeks to allow us to do this. Unfortunately, any students who are currently in Year 13 will be unable to attend the rescheduled date in 2022 as they will no longer be members of St Mary's College. As a result, we will return all of funds you have paid.

To help us with our plans, please complete the Forms survey to notify us of your intentions for the trip using this link, https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qdUTV_BPVUGOO9qE3WcRkaPOzF9UlcNBk4t6L-1qB9pUREhFN0hQRU9ERlpERTZDV0JXOU5ZRjQ3WS4u It is important that all students fill out this form so we are able to advertise places to other students and return monies to those who will not be joining us.

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ST MARY'S COLLEGE

As we have managed to reschedule so far in advance, we are unable to confirm the final price. Much of the trip will remain the same – we have already booked the Hyatt Place for our hotel, something we know students were particularly excited about. Other aspects of the trip such as the flights cannot be booked until 11 months in advance. We therefore would like to make you aware that we expect the maximum cost of the trip to increase by around £30 - £50 per person. As per previous communications, the revised price which students on the trip had agreed to was £1,025 per person. We expect this to be no higher than £1,075 per person and we will work hard to ensure the trip is as best value for money as possible. The price increase does reflect on how costly a summer trip to New York can be, however we still feel that what we are able to provide is excellent value and we hope that you understand that the slight price increase is out of our hands. This new price will be changed on your Parent Pay account but should the overall trip costings come in at a lower rate than this, we will of course adjust the price accordingly.

I would like to thank you all once again for your support of this trip. Never did we foresee such obstacles when we originally booked the trip in January 2020. It is through your patience and understanding that we have been able to once again reschedule the New York trip in the hope that our students will eventually get to experience a trip of a lifetime. I will write to you again with further details of the trip and payment plans once students have chosen whether to reschedule.

Yours sincerely,
Miss R Flanagan

Assistant Head Teacher

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