



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

To parents/ Carers of Year 9-12

## Re: Proposed trip to USA: New York & Washington DC, July 2020

In July 2018 we successfully ran a trip to New York & Washington DC and I am pleased to say that we intend on running this trip again in July 2020. The trip is 7 nights/ 5 days and will involve flying to New York, spending two full days and an evening visiting some of the key sights of the city, a stop-over afternoon visit to Philadelphia and an evening, full day and morning in Washington DC where we will then fly back to the UK. As with the last trip, this may also be in partnership with our sister school, Queen Mary's High School.

The provisional itinerary is as follows:

Day 1: UK coach transfer & fly out to New York City: Evening in Times Square

Day 2: Lower Manhattan: Statute of Liberty cruise, Ellis Island, 9/11 memorial, Wall St, High Line walk

Day 3: Mid Manhattan: Empire State Building, Grand Central Station, Guggenheim Museum, Central Park & 5th Avenue

Day 4: coach transfer to DC via an afternoon stop at Philadelphia visiting The Liberty Bell. Evening walk to The White House

Day 5 & 6: Washington DC visiting: Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, The Mall including the Lincoln memorial, The Newseum, Capitol Building, World War II DUCK amphibious city tour and shopping opportunity in upmarket Georgetown.

Day 7: return flight from DC to the UK and then return to school.

The trip will be with the well established, fully insured, school tour company, Equity. The cost of the trip is **£2,100 pp** based on 24 pupils going (although we can take more). I have included a payment schedule with this letter. The single biggest cost of the trip are the flights. Unfortunately, airlines have not yet released their prices/ scheduled this far in advance. Equity have tried to predict with confidence the flight price. However, should airline prices be higher than expected, then the tour price may increase slightly. We do not anticipate this will happen but I should make you aware of this possible scenario. Included in the price are: all transport costs: airport transfers, flights, travel while in the USA, breakfast, lunch & evening meals, entrance fees, travel & medical insurance, Air Passenger Duty and accommodation.

You will need to have a valid passport and obtain an ESTA visa at around \$14, and bring provision for meals in the outward and return journey (likely at the airport) plus whatever pocket money your child would wish to bring. The trip will happen at the end of the school year in mid July 2020 occurring over term time and also into school holidays. Term dates have not yet been released which is why I can't be more exact at this point.

**Queen Mary's Grammar School**  
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Payment schedule:

	amount	Due by
Deposit	£250	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
2	£250	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2018
3	£600	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2019
4	£500	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2019
5	£500	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020

**The deposit for this trip is £250 and is due by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.** Please note that this deposit is non-refundable once your child's place on the trip has been confirmed. In the event that your child is withdrawn from the trip, either by you or the school, you will be liable for costs in accordance with Equity's cancellation policy, unless there is a medical emergency which can be claimed via insurance or a replacement member of the party can be found. We are not responsible for the lost or damage of personal items such as phones & electronic devices that students may want to bring with them. Should there not be enough student uptake and the trip then cancelled, your deposit will be refunded. Accommodation in New York is based on the Comfort Inn near Times Square and the Harrington Hotel in central DC. Bedding is based on pupils sharing queen sized beds in DC, as is the norm for school groups in US hotels. If we were to book individual rooms for each person then the cost of the trip would be significantly more.

We have tried to keep costs to a minimum and to offer an exciting opportunity for your child. Should you have any questions relating to this visit, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Reynolds at the school (rp-reynolds@qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk ).

R P Reynolds  
Head of History & Trip Organiser

R J Langton  
Headmaster

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**USA: New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC July 2020**  
*Please return to Mr Reynolds at the school and payments via Parents Pay.*

Pupil's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

I wish my child to be considered for a place on the proposed tour to the USA.  
I confirm I have paid the initial deposit of £250 via Parent Pay.

Parental Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_