

22nd November 2018

**Proposed combined GCSE History and Geography trip to Berlin and Krakow
July 1st 2019 to July 5th, 2019**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we are offering a combined GCSE History and Geography trip to Berlin and Krakow. The trip will cover topics studied in Year 10 and 11, specifically Germany 1933-1945 and the Holocaust. Geography students would cover Urban Issues and Challenges in their AQA course. If there are enough interested parties, the trip would depart on Monday 1st July and return on Friday 5th July.

The proposed itinerary for the trip is:

Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Kazimierz (Jewish quarter of Krakow where Schindler's List was filmed, and from where many prisoners were sent to Auschwitz Camp), Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Olympic Stadium, Sachsenhausen concentration camp and Topography of terror. For Geography students, the trip would provide perspective on Issues and Challenges faced in a non-UK Urban area but will still have opportunities to visit Auschwitz and the Olympic Stadium as well as sites in Berlin and Krakow to compliment the AQA course.

Visit includes opportunities for walking tour of other historical sites in Berlin such as Soviet war memorial and Holocaust memorial and a fieldwork study of the changes in Berlin as students complete a transect from East to West, crossing the former wall will take place as will an investigation into the sustainability of the 2 cities and the transport infrastructures present.

Included in the itinerary for Krakow is an element of understanding of physical geography and cross-curricular enrichment with the visit to Wieliczka, a Polish salt mine that tells the History of Poland and the old town of Krakow such as the Jagiellonian University (where Copernicus studied).

The precise cost of the visit will depend on the numbers going, but provisional costing has been set at **£650** based on 40 students on the trip, this includes travel insurance, half-board accommodation, flights and entrance fees. We are able to take a maximum of 48 students if there is sufficient demand and the price will then be slightly lower. It must be emphasised places on the Berlin/Krakow visit are not automatic but dependent on the behaviour of the individual student in school over the second year of their GCSE studies. Students with a consistently poor record of behaviour will not be allowed to participate. The risks involved in taking lengthy visits abroad are now so great that we have to be secure in the knowledge that students will behave appropriately at all times. If the visit is oversubscribed, the History and Geography Departments will allocate the places to ensure, so far as it is possible, that there are an equal number of boys and girls and an equal number of students from each of the current History and Geography classes in Year 10. Students must have their own valid passport and EHIC card. If the trip is oversubscribed, students who were unsuccessful will be placed on a reserve list and will get priority if a second trip is planned.

If you would like your son or daughter to be eligible to go on the visit please complete the attached reply slip and return it to school together with a non-refundable deposit of £130.00 by **Friday 7th December 2018** a further 4 x instalments of £130.00 (minimum) will need to be paid by the 7th of each month with the final payment date being 7th April 2019. Cheques should be made payable to “Abbey College Fund”. Please write student name, tutor group and name of visit on the reverse. Cash payments should be placed in an envelope and clearly marked with the same details. Alternatively you can pay online at www.parentpay.com. Click on the ‘log-in’ button and enter your existing username and password. If you wish to be re-advised of your ParentPay details, please contact office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

Please note that should there be insufficient interest in this visit then it may not take place and all monies will be refunded. Likewise, if the trip is oversubscribed, those students who were unsuccessful will have their deposits refunded. Financial help may be available by applying in writing to the trustees c/o the Finance Office, Abbey College.

Once numbers are known, a more detailed letter, containing the final price and schedule of payment will be sent home. In addition, should the trip go ahead, there will be a meeting scheduled after school, which will give ample opportunity for any questions to be aired and answered.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school rob.gawronski@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk .

Yours faithfully,
Rob Gawronski
Rob Gawronski
Teacher of History

**To: Finance Office for the attention of Mr Gawronski, Teacher of History
Proposed Combined GCSE History and Geography trip to Berlin & Krakow 1st-5th July 2019**

Student Name Tutor Group

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the proposed History visit to Berlin and Krakow on 1st July to 5th July 2019 [please tick box]

I enclose £130 as a deposit (cheque made payable to ‘Abbey College Fund’ **OR** via parentpay) and agree to follow the payment schedule [please tick box]

Signed Date
[parent/carer]

