

24 April 2020

SM/AS

Dear Parent/Carer

### **UPDATE – NEW YORK TRIP**

We thought it would be appropriate to write to all parents/carers regarding the planned trip to New York in September 2020 as I am sure you are wondering what the situation is. Currently, all school trips are cancelled until June. The authority and its insurer will review the global situation at that time about future trips during and beyond summer, so we cannot make a final decision on the trip until then. If the authority/insurer cancels the trip, all deposits (including non-refundable deposits) will be refunded. If we make the decision ourselves, we forfeit that money, so it is best to wait for now.

At the moment we, like everyone, are very unsure if travel to the United States will be permitted by September 2020. I have been in touch with our travel company Equity for some guidance and at the moment they have been very honest and have said that trips in September are not their priority. They have a huge client list and are currently dealing with customers whose travel arrangements fall within the next month. However they have been very clear regarding possible cancellation fees:

- If we decide to cancel before 15th June - each pupil will lose £350, this will increase to 70% of the trip after 15th June and will increase to 100% from 10th August
- Equity have also stated that if the trip were to go ahead but with less pupils, the cost will increase
- As we are not in a position to continue to collect in deposits, Equity are aware we will need to push back our final payment date as well as information for flights and ESTAs

We are in a very difficult and unprecedented situation, so for the reasons outlined above, as a school we have decided to wait until the beginning of June to make any formal decision on this trip.

If there is any specific conversation you wish to have concerning this trip, please get in touch.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S. McKnight  
Trip Leader