



Monday 28th November 2011

Year 11 Berlin Trip 2012

Dear Parents,

I am writing to give further details of the Year 11 GCSE History trip to Berlin in October 2012. As you will recall I recently sent out a letter to see whether a Berlin Trip would be viable for current Year 10 History students in October 2012. Indeed it seems there is a great deal of interest in the trip and over one hundred sets of parents have registered an interest in their child taking part in the trip. In an effort to accommodate all of the students interested, the cost of the trip is £525 per student. This price includes the following:

- Return flight to Berlin (British Airways from Heathrow)
- Three nights at Aletto Youth Hostel (half-board accommodation)
- Coach travel to and from Berlin/Heathrow airports
- Coach for a full day's excursion in Berlin & a packed lunch for that day
- U-Bahn (Underground) tickets for all four days in Berlin
- Public Liability Insurance
- Contribution to the cost of supply teachers required for 3 school days
- Photocopying Costs for a Berlin Trip Booklet
- Entry into all sites and museums over the four days
- Cinema Entry and Two Games of Ten Pin Bowling

The trip will run from Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th of October 2012 and as such will overlap with the first weekend of the October half term next year. We will be flying with British Airways from Heathrow, staying at the Aletto Youth Hostel (Half Board – Breakfast/Evening Meal) in central Berlin and hiring a coach/using public transport as appropriate to see the various historical sites and museums. On the way out to Berlin we will be catching the two earliest BA flights (9am and 11am).

Upon arrival, having checked into the Youth Hostel, the first day will commence with a short U-Bahn trip to Potsdamer Platz where we will explore the Topography of Terror, the Headquarters of the Gestapo Secret Police. We will then go on a tour of underground bunkers left over from the Second World War, before taking a short walking tour of the Luftwaffe Headquarters and sections of the Berlin Wall. From there we will return to the Youth Hostel for an evening meal, before heading off again to go Ten Pin bowling for the evening.

On Day 2 we will be hiring a coach in order to explore sites outside of the city. First we will visit Sachsenhausen, the site of a Nazi Concentration Camp. This is a very moving experience as the students learn of the hardships the prisoners faced and view the remains of the small gas chambers and ovens. The Nazis imprisoned 200,000 people here from 1933-45. From Sachsenhausen we will travel to the Berlin Olympic Stadium, which was built for the 1936 Olympic Games. As well as being an excellent example of Nazi Architecture, the students will be reminded of the story of Jesse Owens, the successful black athlete who won several gold medals much to Adolf Hitler's dismay. From the Olympic Stadium we will then visit the Brandenburg Gate, Holocaust Memorial and Soviet War Memorial, as we head back into the City Centre. After an evening meal and a short break at the Youth Hostel, we will then be heading out to the Reichstag (German Parliament Building). Not only is this the building the Nazis set fire to in 1933 in order to eliminate Communist opposition, it was also effectively the site of the end of the Second World War. As well as having such huge historical significance, the Reichstag's roof also offers some of the best panoramic views of Berlin.

On Day 3 our focus will switch to Berlin during the Cold War. We will start by taking the U-Bahn to the Allied Museum, where students will gain an in depth understanding of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift of 1948-9. The museum includes hundreds of military artefacts, as well as some of the original planes used in the Airlift. After lunch we will travel to Bernauerstrasse, where a section of the Berlin Wall, including watchtowers and the 'death strip' has been reconstructed. This will give the students a flavour of how difficult it would have been for individuals to escape to West Berlin. From there we will travel to Checkpoint Charlie, one of the most famous checkpoints along the Berlin Wall, where several ingenious escape plans took place. The students will be told many of these stories in the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. After our evening meal at the Hostel we will finish the day by visiting the English Speaking Cinema at Potsdamer Platz and giving the students a choice of two current films.

On our final day we will walk up the Unter den Linden to the German Historical Museum, which covers all three periods of German History that the students are currently studying at GCSE. If time permits we will also take a short walk into the Jewish quarter to see some of the memorials to Kristallnacht, the night when the Nazis stepped up their persecution of the Jewish community in Germany in 1938. This again is a very moving experience as students take in both the scale of the Jewish persecution and the horrific nature of their treatment under Nazi rule. After lunch students will be given free time to shop in the trendy Kurfurstendamm district of the city before heading back to the Youth Hostel to board the coach to the airport.

The trip can accommodate a maximum number of 91 students given that a ratio of 1 staff member to 10 students will be required, the airlines only allow school bookings of a maximum of 50 seats and it would be logistically very difficult to operate the trip on more than two separate flights. In order to apply for a place on the 2012 Berlin trip for your child it will be necessary to complete the reply slip below, and return it together with a deposit cheque for £60 to the Finance Office by Friday 9th December at 9am. Payments in this instance should be by cheque only and payable to 'St George's School'. Please note that if more than 91 students apply to go on the trip, the first 91 names pulled at random out of a hat will receive places and any remaining students will be placed on a reserve list. The draw will take place at lunchtime on Friday 9th December and I will send home a letter confirming whether or not your child has a place on the trip prior to the end of term on Friday 16th December. This letter will also outline the schedule for the remaining payments. A parents briefing evening will also take place in mid October next year.

In addition to a completed reply slip and £60 deposit cheque, we also require a **photocopy of the photo page of your child's passport assuming that it will still be in date until the end of October 2012. If your child's passport runs out before the dates of the trip please renew your child's passport as soon as possible and send us a photocopy of the photo page of the renewed passport by Friday 20th January 2012.** Please note that we cannot book the flights until we have photocopies of each student's passport photo page.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Farmery

History Department (Acting Head of Politics)

Reply slip for Year 11 History Trip to Berlin in October 2012

I would like my child _____ History Teacher _____,
House _____, to go on the Year 11 Berlin Trip of October 2012. I enclose a cheque for
£60.00 payable to 'St George's School' as a deposit and I am willing to pay the remaining of £465
over the next ten months. NB Please write your child's name on the back of your cheque as well as
'Berlin Trip 2012'

Signed _____

PLEASE RETURN TO FINANCE OFFICE BY FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER 2011 at 9am.

Please tick one of the following two boxes:

- I enclose a photocopy of the photo page of my child's passport which will still be valid during the trip (24-27th October 2012).**
- My son or daughter's passport needs to be renewed in order to be valid for the trip. I will submit a photocopy of my child's renewed passport photo page to the Finance Office by 20th January 2012 at the latest.**