

23rd May 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: 2026 USA Educational Visit

The academy has previously run three successful trips to New York City. The academy is proposing to run this trip once again as part of our Global Experience Series.

The trip will be a 6-days/5-nights residential trip to New York, City on 14th –19th February 2026 (exact flight dates and times TBC). This is partially during February half term. The trip is open to any student who will be in year 9 – 13 at the time of the trip, so current year 7 -11.

The trip accommodation will be a hostel, with shared bathrooms, where students will have easy access to Wi-Fi to be able to keep in touch. Students will need to bring spending money with them to allow for lunches during the trip.

The estimated price of the trip is **£1845**. The trip price includes transfers in the UK and America, evening meals, entrance fees, flights and bed and breakfast accommodation. However, flights cannot currently be booked this far in advance so the price may change very slightly. The price also includes a trip hoodie/jumper which is a nice souvenir but also practical - we will be asking students to wear them on travel days so that they are easier to supervise in the airports.

The Academy has added approximately 10% to the overall cost of these trips, to create a contingency fund; the prices stated above include this 10% contingency. This is standard practice for educational institutions and covers areas such as administration, extra kit, specialist equipment, awards, emergencies, staffing (in school time), production of pre-trip and post-trip materials and gifts. On return, if there is any money left over, the Academy will divide remaining funds amongst the pupils and refund appropriately.

Once final numbers of students are confirmed and bookings can be made, a final itinerary for the trip will be produced. The trip will aim to include most of these attractions:

- Empire State Building
- Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island cruise
- Top of the Rock
- 9/11 memorial and museum
- Museum of Natural History
- Times Square
- Guided walking tour of Central Park
- Bronx Zoo
- *Optional Broadway Show (at an additional cost)*

Students will require spending money on the trip to cover lunches. We strongly recommend a minimum of £150 spending money to cover these costs – if students would like to bring more than this to purchase souvenirs then they are welcome to bring additional spending money.

This is of course, a very expensive trip and we do not expect for parents to be paying the full amount for their children to attend. We really want students to see this as an opportunity to be responsible and gain some independence, either by saving pocket money or birthday/Christmas money or by getting a part time job at the weekends or over the summer holidays.

Payment schedule:

Payment 1 - Deposit	£300	By Monday 1st July 2024 (This is non-refundable if your child changes their mind.)
Payment 2	£400	By Monday 23rd September 2024
Payment 3	£400	By Monday 10th February 2025
Payment 4	£400	By Monday 7th July 2025
Payment 5	£345	By Monday 22nd September 2025
Compulsory spending money	£150 (minimum)	Ready for departure in cash (already exchanged in the equivalent US dollars , there won't be time for this at the airport).

If your child is interested in taking part in this trip, we'd like to invite you to a Parent & Student information evening on **Thursday 13th June 2024 at 17:30** in the Lecture Theatre at TGAW. We strongly encourage you, and your child, to attend this meeting as it will give you a better understanding of the trip and its suitability for your child. If you are interested in this trip, please also complete this Microsoft forms: <https://forms.office.com/e/vTj80SrVY> This is not a commitment but gives us a better understanding of the amount of interest.

There are only 44 spaces available on this trip. We are unable to increase this number. If more than 44 students wish to attend, spaces will be given out based on age order (as younger students will have a chance to go later in their school life) and the number of negative behaviour points a student has.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Mackie
(Curriculum Leader for Personal Development)