

Our Ref: ASH/sck

20th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Proposed trip to Verona, Italy. July 2018

The English Department at The Thomas Alleyne Academy is pleased to announce that students in Year 10 will have the chance to attend a 4-day trip to Verona in Italy to experience the setting of *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the most fascinating texts that pupils study and will be examined on as part of their English Literature GCSE.

Our aim is that the trip will develop pupils' appreciation of how everyday issues such as love, family, power, wealth and status, as well as religion and the way that people at the time believed their destinies were determined by the gods, shaped the tragic outcome of this most famous play.

Verona, with its cathedral, roman remains, and many sites that through legend have become directly associated with the story of *Romeo and Juliet*, offers pupils a unique way to experience a play that was written for audiences that lived over 400 years ago.

This trip is an exceptional opportunity through which pupils' appreciation of these factors can be developed and then successfully used to their advantage in examination.

Dates, timings & travel:

The trip will take place from Monday 16th July to Thursday 19th July 2018. We currently expect to leave the academy via coach at approximately 04:00 and travel to the airport where we will fly to Verona. The return trip will be made along the same route, by air from Verona to the UK, then on to the academy by coach. We expect to return at approximately 14:30. Whilst in Italy we will have use of a coach to transport us between our various activities and the hotel.

Accommodation & meals:

The three nights' accommodation will be provided in the Hotel Valpolicella in San Pietro – approximately 20 minutes' drive from Verona and Lake Garda. This will include dinner, breakfast and packed lunches with pupils staying in multi-bedded rooms.

Activities:

Our itinerary for the four days will include:

Day 1: Arrival at the hotel, then travel to Verona for a 3 hour guided walking tour of the city, including: Juliet's House, Juliet's Tomb, Romeo's House, the Volto Barbaro, and Verona's cathedral.

Day 2: Travel by coach to Lake Garda to visit the remains of a large roman villa (Grotte di Catullo), a local castle (Rocca Scaligera), and enjoy a boat trip on Lake Garda. We will then return to Verona for a second guided walking tour that will include Verona Arena and other roman ruins.

Day 3: Travel by coach to Gardaland for a full day's reward of enjoyment at a theme park.

Day 4: Travel by coach to Verona Airport to return to the UK.

Cont.

Costs and Payments:

The cost of the trip is **£498**. This is 'all inclusive': travel, accommodation, meals and activities.

Pupils may however need a suitable amount of money for:

- Purchase of drinks and food during the outbound journey:

Please bear in mind that the early departure time, the time it will take for a school group to process through airport security and restrictions on taking liquids through airport security, may mean that we are unable to stop for breakfast at what would normally be a suitable time. Pupils should however be able to purchase food once through security, or on the plane. We will clarify this arrangement as soon as possible.

- Purchase of souvenirs and refreshments during activities.

Should you wish your son/daughter to participate in the trip, please complete the reply slip expressing your interest by **Monday 27th November 2017**. If your child receives a place on this trip, they will receive a confirmation letter. On receipt of the confirmation letter, please make a **non-refundable deposit payment** of **£68** via WisePay, or by cash or cheque via Reception.

We expect this trip to be very popular and in the interest of fairness priority will be given to those who have demonstrated good behaviour during their time at the academy. Places will not necessarily be secured on a first-come, first-served basis. If over-subscribed, names will be entered into a ballot and chosen at random, the maximum number of pupils that we can take on the trip is 40.

Although this experience is not a requirement of the KS4 curriculum, I strongly recommend the educational and cultural benefits that can be gained from participation.

Instalment options:

We are happy to accept payment for the trip by instalment, recommended amounts and dates are as follows:

Friday 12th January 2018 - £86

Wednesday 14th February 2018 - £86

Wednesday 14th March 2018 - £86

Friday 13th April 2018 - £86

Monday 14th May 2018 - £86

If you do not wish to pay by instalment, the deadline for the final payment of £430 (having previously paid the non-refundable deposit of £68) will be **Monday 14th May 2018**. Once the first instalment has been paid, there will be no refunds for the trip.

Essential Student Requirements:

- A valid passport
- Passport sized photo
- EHIC (European Health Insurance Card)
- Luggage suitable for carrying on board the flight (details to follow)
- Spending money

Cont.

Methods of application for EHIC:

Apply online to www.dh.gov.uk/travellers
Or call EHIC application line on 0845 606 2030

Behaviour:

We are proud of our excellent record of exemplary behaviour on trips and visits. Students will be representing our academy and we expect all to behave and act responsibly. If staff have any concerns about your child's conduct, their place on the visit will be reviewed.

We believe that this is an outstanding opportunity for our students to develop a unique appreciation of this enduring examination text.

Yours faithfully

Mr A. Smith

Second in English

Reply slip – Proposed trip to Verona, Italy from Monday 16th July to Thursday 19th July 2018
Please complete and return to Mrs Clark in Main Reception

Student name: Form:

I would like to express an interest in my son/daughter attending the above trip. I understand that if the trip is oversubscribed that students will be selected at random.

I confirm that my child will adhere to The Academy's behaviour expectations for trips and visits.

Signed: Parent/Carer

Date: