

This matter is being dealt with by: G Copland

HEAD: Mr P A Beever, BA, M(Ed)
Deputy Heads: David S Clark; John A Haslam

Our Ref: 09-140411 - Yrs 12/13 Visit to Russia



RICHMOND SCHOOL & Sixth Form College

December 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

Sixth Form Visit to Russia 2011: 9 - 14 April 2011

Following the huge success of last year's visit, the History Department will again be organising a trip to Russia in 2011 for Years 12 and 13 (current Years 11 and 12). The visit will be during the Easter holidays, leaving Saturday 9 April and returning Friday 14 April.

We will fly to Moscow, the vibrant capital city, for three days where we will visit amongst other places Red Square, the Armouries and Lenin's mausoleum. We will then travel onto St Petersburg, the historical and picturesque capital of the Tsars, via the overnight train. In St Petersburg highlights include the Hermitage museum in Catherine the Great's Winter Palace, and a traditional Russian folk show. At all times we are accompanied by local guides whose excellent knowledge allows us to understand and appreciate all the places and sites we visit. A provisional itinerary is attached.

Having visited this part of Russia in my youth and also been lucky enough to go on the last Richmond visit I can testify to how enjoyable and interesting an experience it was, and I am very excited to be returning to Russia. Students who went thoroughly enjoyed the trip and also gained a great deal in experiencing a country and culture quite different to our own and which is in the middle of an intriguing period of change. The trip also ties in perfectly with our A level course which examines Russian history. Students are able to link their studies to real places, such as the battleship Aurora, whose guns began the 1917 Revolution, and the body of Lenin.

The trip is organised through NST, an experienced and reputable travel company who specialise in organising school tours. **The cost of the visit will be approximately £1300. This includes all transport costs, accommodation and one meal a day, and access to all sites and activities mentioned in the itinerary (except the Moscow circus).** Please note that whilst we will strive to adhere to this figure, the exact final cost will need to be confirmed nearer the trip as certain costs can fluctuate at short notice and these are out of our hands. We have negotiated the best deal possible with NST, however Russia is an increasingly popular tourist destination and this has impacted on costs of accommodation, transport etc.

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A visa is required to visit Russia, and this is organised by NST through a specialist company. The Russian government can change visa costs at short notice, and this may affect the overall cost of the trip.

If you wish to reserve a place on this trip, please return the permission slip and a non-refundable deposit of £160 by Friday 15 January 2010. We will stage further payments leading up to the visit, with the final payment required in February 2011. Details of the payment schedule will be given out at a later stage.

Please feel free to contact either Mr Copland, who is organising the trip, or Mr Jackson, Head of History, if you have any queries regarding this visit.

Yours sincerely

G Copland

Sixth Form Visit to Russia 2011: 9 -14 April 2011

I wish to reserve a place on the above trip for my son/daughter:

Student's Name: Tutor Group:

and enclose a deposit of £160 (cheques made payable to "Richmond School").

Signed: Date:
(Parent/Guardian)

Please return this slip to Mr Copland by **Friday 15 January 2010.**

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