



12th September 2012

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sixth Form trip to Venice, February 11-15th February 2013

After the successes of the RE Rome trips, I am pleased to inform you of the RE department's expansion through a proposed visit to Venice in the February half term 2013. This trip is designed around RE and Philosophy A-Level specification. Students studying religious art will be able to gain the fantastic benefit of seeing the art in situ whilst those studying questions on the existence and nature of God in Philosophy and RE will be able to see the social impact of their philosophical discussions. However, this trip also presents many cross-curricular possibilities with an appeal to anyone who has an interest in other cultures and societies. **The trip is therefore open to any member of the Hinchingsbrooke 6th Form.**

Dates: The proposed dates are Monday 11th to Friday 15th February 2013. This is a fantastic opportunity as students will also be able to see the last days of the famous Venetian Carnival.

Itinerary: We will be travelling with National Student Travel (NST). Further details on this group can be found at www.nstgroup.co.uk. They will be organising accommodation and providing a tour guide to take us around Rome. By using this company, not only will there be support with planning an effective trip, but should anything go wrong, they will provide support both in Rome and from the UK to resolve the problem. Please find below a proposed itinerary:

- Day 1:** Flights, settle into accommodation, tour of local area, evening meal.
- Day 2:** Visiting the famous San Marco Basilica followed by lunch and free time before a walk through the twisting streets of the surrounding area to the Academia.
- Day 3:** Taking the Vaporeto (Taxi Boat) across the Lagoon the students will visit the Basilica at Torcello before travelling for lunch at Murano and Burano and visiting glass workshops.
- Day 4:** A guided visit of the Doge's palace with guided tours in the afternoon
- Day 5:** The Merchant of Venice – visit to the Jewish quarter, flights.

Cost: Government legislation on charging for school activities, under the terms of the Education Act 1988, means that for this visit, which is not predominantly in school time and is not essential to curriculum delivery, a charge of **£625** is incurred. For a pupil finding cost a barrier to participation the school may be able to offer financial assistance. Please ask the student to collect a Hinchingsbrooke Foundation Bursary application form from the main office, so that the Board of Trustees can consider their application. (If this applies please feel free to complete the form below to register interest). The total cost per student is to cover the cost of flights, airport transfers in UK and Italy, accommodation, entry to museums (including headsets), breakfast and evening meals. Students will be expected to bring money for lunch and personal spending money. Please note that once final numbers have been confirmed we are hoping there will be a reduction in price. This is due to flights currently being booked through British Airways. Once we have final numbers NST will investigate the possibility of flying with a low cost airline. If there is a reduction in cost, this will be passed on with a reduction in final payment.

Next Steps: If your student would like to attend this trip, please return the permission slip below with a deposit cheque for **£60** made payable to Hinchingsbrooke School to the Finance Cashier who will be

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available in Old Middle School at break times. It is also possible to pay by credit/debit card and this can be done by calling 01480 420502. In order to aid flight booking confirmation, please provide a photocopy of your passport, details of dietary requirements and any health issues of which you feel the supervising staff need to be aware. The deadline for the return of permission slips is **Friday 21st September 2012**. Details regarding further payments and possible payment plans will be provided once the initial deposit has been paid.

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact the trip co-ordinator, Mr. Winter, via email (pjw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

Mr P Winter (Trip Co-ordinator)

Students should note that the school's Code of Conduct applies to all educational visits. Parents should note that the staff supervising are acting *in loco parentis* and they should expect the standard of care given by a reasonably prudent parent/carer. The school will not be responsible for any personal loss or injury unless proved to be negligent. A risk assessment has been carried out by National Student Travel for the activities in the visit and students must obey all instructions given by staff.

Please return this slip along with a photocopy of your passport to the Cashier in the Old Middle School Dining Room by Friday 21st September

To: Mr. Winter, Trip to Venice, February 2013

I give permission for my son/daughter to visit Venice in February 2013

Student name: Tutor group:

I confirm that I have paid a deposit of £60 by a cheque made payable to Hinchingsbrooke School

I acknowledge that this is a non-returnable deposit and agree to meet the specified payment dates

I have enclosed a photocopy of my child's passport

My child has the following medical condition of which the school should be aware:

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My child has the following dietary requirements of which the school should be aware:

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The department will be sending out extra information on the trip for parents/carers. If you would like to receive this information by post or email please include your contact details below:

Email address:

Postal address:

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Parents should note that there will be some unstructured time on the visit, appropriate to the age group: students should always remain in groups; they will have clear contact details for the supervising member of staff at all times.

A contact number for the period of the trip is:

An alternative contact number is:

Name of parent/carer:

Signature of parent/carer: Date: