Dear Parent/Carer

**Trip to Hollywood LA, 29 March – 4 April 2018**

After the success of our drama trip to New York in April 2017, we are organising a trip to Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA during the first week of the Easter holidays 2018. This trip will be open to drama students and those having taken drama at GCSE or been involved in school productions. Students must also be attending St Martins School in September 2017 to attend this trip. The cost of the trip will be approximately £1,680 per student and will need to be paid in instalments. This is a fantastic price for such a large trip which will include flights, accommodation, two meals per day and pre booked activities.

This charge will include accommodation flights and transport cost in America, breakfast and evening meals, two Stella Adler Conservatory for Actors workshops, one celebrity Q&A, Sony Picture studio group tour, Dolby Theatre tour (home to the Oscars), Hollywood behind the scenes tour, admission to Universal Studios Hollywood, Santa Monica/Venice Beach excursion, cycle rental, Dodgers baseball game, movie at Disney’s El Capitan Theatre, a USA tour representative for the duration of our stay, travel to and from the airport in the UK, administrative costs and contingency fund.

We will be staying in the Freehand Hotel, 416 W 8th St, Los Angeles, CA 90014. The rooms are either four-bed, six-bed, and eight-bed. Each room also has a locker for each bed to hold personal items securely. The hotel has a rooftop pool deck amenity with skyline views. A continental breakfast is included with the room rate. The cost for lunch and other expenses, including charges for any optional activities, are not included. I would suggest that students allow about £15 per day for extra food and drink depending on their taste and appetites.

This is the sixth time the drama department has organised a trip of this scale; Mrs Wilkinson and I were both involved in the Florida tour 2008, two Hollywood tours in 2011 and 2015 and two New York tours in 2013 and 2017. These tours have been a huge success and all who were involved had a fantastic experience. The school is running this trip through the travel company ‘Redline Group Travel’ who we have used on our last four trips.

This is an amazing trip and past students have benefited greatly from the Stella Adler workshops which many Hollywood stars have attended. On our last visit we met with Oscar winning George Chakiris who played Bernardo in the film ‘West Side Story’ who presented students his Oscar and gave advice on auditions and life as a Hollywood star.

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On this trip we will give very explicit limits within which we expect students to operate. The exact degree of freedom they will be given will depend upon the activity but it will often require the whole group keeping together. Staff are particularly concerned that no student wanders alone or outside the defined area and those students never leave the group without the explicit permission of staff. It is important that parents realise that individual students will not be under the direct supervision of staff at all times during the visit although staff will remain within the designated areas so they are available should difficult arise. No smoking or alcohol will be permitted on this trip.

If you are interested in your son/daughter taking part in this trip, please return the attached consent form to the finance office by Monday 5 June with a cash/cheques deposit of £168. A further £168 will need to be paid at the beginning of July and then each month after, with the last payment being made on 2 March 2018. A Standing Order will need to be set up for future payments and the form attached needs to be completed and sent in with the consent form.

You should be aware that this trip has been approved by the school’s Governors. An example of the itinerary is attached so that you can see all the amazing activities we will be involved in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Page

Head of Year 13 and Trip Leader