



HEADTEACHER: MELISSA ROBERTS

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

BW/hr/MFL department/Paris Trip
21st November 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Year 9 Residential – King's Park – Monday 22nd – Friday 26th May 2023

Unfortunately, due to number of factors, our usual tradition of taking **every** Year 9 student to Conway has had to be changed to a different destination. Whilst on the one hand, we are disappointed by this, we have pre-booked a new centre and are looking forward to taking Year 9 on a slightly different journey, to share in a collective whole year group retreat. We have worked hard to find a suitable centre and have started planning all of the activities that will happen during the week. We have booked in the following dates - **Monday 22nd – Friday 26th May 2023.**

The focus for this week will be linked to our current strapline 'Fideliter et Fortiter' and will include a variety of activities linked, in part, to the creative arts; including drama, music, art, dance, design, sport and much, much more. There will be many opportunities for spiritual development at the centre through a range of creative morning prayers and evening meditations. This kind of trip is like no other and has long been part of St Joseph's traditions. The Options process and Year 9 examinations will have already been completed by this stage, so we will be looking forward to the transition into N10. In fact, this week will be the last official week of Year 9 and will lead into the half term. Following the half term, Year 9 will start their journey into Key Stage 4 and enter into N10 (New Year 10). Many of the activities that will take place during the Kings' Park trip will help with this transition process.

A number of school staff will accompany the students throughout the whole week and will take responsibility for their supervision. We will also welcome visiting activity leaders, who will be delivering interactive and fun sessions. We will also be supported by staff from King's Park. King's Park itself is situated in Northampton. The building is lovely and modern; providing excellent working facilities and indoor and outdoor spaces. Students will be accommodated in well-furnished rooms and will have a wide range of food and drink on offer at mealtimes.

The trip will leave school on Monday 22nd May 2023 at approximately 9:30am, and will return for approximately 3:00pm on Friday 26th May 2023. Due to the current economic environment, we have worked very hard to keep costs to a minimum. The final cost of the trip is actually cheaper than last year's Year 9 retreat, at **£229**, inclusive of all meals, etc – We do require payment of a deposit of **£30 BY WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022**, please. Apologies for the quick turnaround. We need to ensure that this is processed through our internal finance systems and then onto Kings' Park before the end of term.

THE FINAL BALANCE £199 (FOLLOWING A DEPOSIT PAYMENT OF £30) SHOULD BE PAID BY WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2023.

If there are any concerns regarding payment, particularly as we approach the Christmas period, then please contact me as soon as possible as we do have funding to help in difficult circumstances. Of course, if you would like to pay in one go, that's fine too – whatever suits you best. We would like all payments to be paid through the ParentPay system - if you have any issues with this then please contact our Finance Office as soon as possible.

Telephone: 01782 848008, email: sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com www.stjosephstrentvale.com

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It is school policy that **full payment** must be received before the trip departs, unless otherwise agreed, in order for your child to go on this trip. Please note that refunds are not possible.

This really is a wonderful opportunity for our Year 9 students and we insist that **everyone** takes part.

There is no need to return a reply slip – your payment on Parent Pay will act as your consent to allow your child to take part in the Kings' Park trip. I will issue more detailed information nearer to the time and will also plan an information evening that will take place in the early stages of May 2023, so that I can share further/final details about the trip with you.

Please do let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Mr B Weaver
Head of Year 9/MFL department

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