

New York 2018

Welcome!

Three weeks today, almost to the minute, we'll be landing!

Tonight's presentation is all about giving you the answers to some of those nagging questions you've got and to make you all feel at ease at the idea of your son or daughter in our care for five days across the Atlantic!



What are we doing?!

Itinerary – Day 1

- Depart from Holbrook Academy at 4am on morning of 25th October.
- PLEASE ensure you have helped your child load their suitcase onto the coach!
- PLEASE ensure there is nothing in the car when you climb back in!
- (Both of the above come from bitter experience!)
- Arrive at London Heathrow at 07:30.
- Children will be briefed as to the importance of:
 - No silliness
 - No inappropriate comments
 - No liquids (this includes liquid make-up!)

Itinerary – Day 1

- 10:30 – take off into the wide blue yonder, New York bound.
- 13:30 (EST) – land at New York JFK. EST (Eastern Standard Time) is five hours behind BST. Students will be instructed to adjust watches appropriately; phones will adjust themselves.
- 16:00 – arrive at the hotel.
- 17:30 – walk to Times Square.

Itinerary – Day 1

- 18:30 – Dinner at the Heartland Brewery.
- 20:00 – Ascend to the top of the Empire State Building



Itinerary – Day 1

- 18:30 – Dinner at the Heartland Brewery.
- 20:00 – Ascend to the top of the Empire State Building
- 21:00 – Back to the hotel for some much needed sleep.

Itinerary – Day 2

- 08:00 – Breakfast - children will need their own money.
- 09:25 – Microsoft Workshop at Fifth Avenue
- 11:30 – Walk across the famous Brooklyn Bridge, followed by lunch in Brooklyn itself.
- 15:00 – New York Hall of Science
- 19:00 – Evening meal at the Hard Rock Café on Broadway

Itinerary – Day 3



- 08:00 – Breakfast - children will need their own money.
- 10:00 – subway downtown to Battery Park and the ferry to the iconic statue of liberty.
- 12:00 – lunch at Battery Park
- 13:00 – visit to 9/11 Memorial Museum
- 15:30 – Apple Workshop in Soho
- 18:30 – Evening meal at Jing Fong Chinese restaurant
- 21:00 – Bed for some even more needed sleep.

Itinerary – Day 4

- 08:00 – Check out of rooms and leave luggage.
- 10:00 – Brunch in Central Park and movie scene spotting.
- 12:00 – Visit Nintendo World at the Rockefeller Plaza.
- 14:00 – Shopping at Macy's and late lunch
- 18:00 – coach back to the airport
- 18:45 – Eat at the airport, check in for our flight home.
- 22:45 – Fly home
- Sleep on the plane!



Itinerary – Day 5

- 10:50 – touchdown on home soil at London Heathrow
- 13:00 – stop for lunch
- 16:00 – arrive back at the Academy, exhausted but with **memories** that will last a **lifetime**.

Mobile Phone

- As annoying as mobile phones can be to us teachers, they may well prove to be a lifesaver on a trip such as this.
- Please ensure that you have checked with your child's phone provider that their phone will work in the US.
- I will tell the children about roaming charges, but you must also reinforce this message. Show your child how to turn data roaming on and off.
- Phones will connect and will use data even on standby.
- The Academy cannot be held liable for huge phone bills!



Behaviour



- Luckily, every student I'm taking on this trip is a lovely, well behaved young adult...!
- HOWEVER, they may forget where they are due to the heady combination of jet lag, too much sugar and not enough sleep, all mixed in with the excitement of being in New York City!
- I have the same high expectations of the students on this trip as I do in school, and this goes for all the staff coming.
- There will be sanctions and consequences for those that decide to let me and themselves down by making poor choices.
- Worst case scenario will be asking you to jump on a transatlantic flight to come and get them.....

Terrorism

“Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in the USA. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. You should monitor media reports and be vigilant at all times.”

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/terrorism>

Flying

Seating arrangements not known/decided as yet and won't be until we check in.

Students may well be told to sit in a particular seat. This should be adhered to until we are well in the air.

Nervous fliers should let me know how they're feeling so I can monitor them or ask a friend to sit with them for comfort etc.

At the airports

Children will be allowed to wander the shopping area of both airports on the way out, but must stay in groups of no less than three. I will be strict on this and will not allow anyone to go around as a pair or by themselves.

Usual standard of behaviour expectations apply, of course.

The Accommodation

The accommodation (Vanderbilt YMCA) is fairly basic but clean and well positioned in NYC to make an excellent base.

We've used it before so we're familiar with the layout and the local area.

We won't know where students rooms are until we get there. I may move students rooms, depending on friendship groups, but there should be no switching of rooms at this stage; this is an important health and safety issue in case of fire.

The Accommodation

Shared facilities – some students might be nervous about using the shared bathroom with members of the public.

Staff will take students down in groups and monitor carefully.

Students should report anything that concerns them to a member of staff straight away.

Getting about

Most of our travel will be done on foot.

Students should be prepared for this by bringing sensible shoes and socks. Walking socks, which offer more support and comfort, would be ideal.

Do not bring brand new shoes. NY is a very fashionable city; nobody wants to see your blisters after a long walk...

We WILL, however, have to use the Subway at some points. Students need to remember the importance of listening very carefully to all instructions, most of which will only have time to be delivered once.

Getting lost

Students will be given clear instructions as to what to do in the unlikely event of them becoming lost.

The main thing is to NOT panic. Everyone speaks English in New York, the signs are in English and the road system being a grid makes navigation very easy.

If they get lost on the Subway, they will be instructed to get to the top, get signal and phone a teacher. We will know we've lost someone and will be heading up as well.

Weather

I've seen forecasts ranging from 14 degrees to 24 degrees for the time we are there. Clearly, it is going to fall away considerably at night so students must dress for the conditions.

I recommend layering up and bringing a small rucksack so layers can be removed if they become too warm.

We should also be prepared for rain, although there isn't much of it in the current forecast.

Money

I've contacted a few of you already about money. I recommend a company called POCKIT (no, I'm not on commission!) who will issue your child with their own card after you sign up and add them as a card holder.

Replacement cards can be sought and empty balances can be topped up.

They are also at much less of a risk of theft.

So....I think that answers my question of WHAT ARE WE DOING?!

Any questions of your own?