

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may well know, your son/daughter is a member of an exclusive student group known as the Think Tank, for which they had to have their application approved and prove their commitment and reliability over an extended period of time. The group has been running for well over ten years and past members have gone on to great things, including studying at our country's most prestigious universities.

A crucial aspect of the work of the Think Tank is my encouragement of the pupils to have their voices heard. I have always found that the group attracts members who are great students with great ideas but who do not always get to show and share these. To that end, I try to offer the pupils a range of role-models and examples and increasingly I am seeing the pupils work together effectively and gain positive recognition for their contributions.

I am very pleased to inform you that, for the first time ever, we shall be running a trip to London, for the invited group only. This visit has been long in the planning and has finally come to fruition.

Our trip will first head to Parliament for a very brief visit. We have secured tickets to see the start of that day's session (including the "Speaker's Parade") and we shall watch at least 30 minutes of a live debate - it will be a "Departmental Questions" session. We then head on to the Globe Theatre. After a tour of the venue we shall do a one-hour theatre workshop. After this, we shall head for a substantial Italian meal near Tower Bridge for each pupil to choose a main course, dessert and soft drink and where the group can enjoy each other's company and feedback on their experiences of the day. We also hope to have some moments during the day to discuss some famous sites of London. Our two main activities follow on from each other - it's been some task to get to a point where both venues can host us on the same day, as both are in such high demand.

I would ask pupils to have a good breakfast that morning and to consider bringing a snack or even a packed lunch, which they could have between Parliament and The Globe, as we shan't arrive for our afternoon meal until around 3pm.

If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please could you complete the Consent Form attached and return to Pupil Services, along with making payment on Scopay, as soon as possible.

The details of the trip are as follows:-

Date:	Tuesday 18 th July 2023
Venue:	London – Parliament, Globe Theatre, Italian restaurant
Time of Departure:	9:00am
Time of Return:	6:00pm (approximately)
Dress:	Uniform
Mode of Transport:	Coach
Cost:	£75.00

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This trip will be covered by school insurance and accompanied by members of staff. This trip requires us to pre-purchase transport/ tickets to obtain the best price. Therefore, we will be unable to offer a refund unless there are exceptional circumstances in the event of your child being unable to attend the trip.

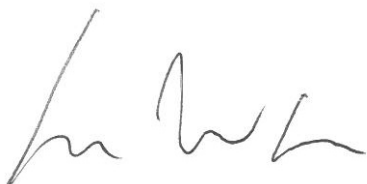
ScoPay is now the preferred method of payment for all trips, visits and school activities. If you visit <https://www.scopay.com/login> you will see payment details. If you have mislaid your ScoPay login details please call Pupil Services. Should you still wish to pay by cash or cheque (cheques should be made payable to *Rayleigh Schools Trust*) and handed into Pupil Services. If you have any ScoPay queries regarding this trip, please contact Mrs A Twomey (atwomey@sweynepark.com). Consent forms to be handed into Pupil Services once payment has been made.

Any pupils who require medication must ensure that they bring this with them.

If there are any financial difficulties, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Dines, in the strictest confidence.

If you have any questions at all about the trip, please do contact myself at the school via: woolnough@sweynepark.com

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Woolnough', written in a cursive style.

Mr L Woolnough
(MFL/Literacy/Think Tank)