

June 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

5 Day Study Trip to Berlin for Year 10 GCSE and A Level students of German and History

From Tuesday 9th July to Saturday 13th July 2024 we are running a 5-day trip to Berlin so that pupils and students may have the opportunity to find out about the once divided capital city of Germany. Students will visit many historical sights in Berlin and, if they study German, will also get a chance to practise speaking German.

The proposed itinerary for the trip is as follows, although changes may occur once flight times are known:-

- Day 1 Flight from London to Berlin and transfer to the hotel. Evening light show at the Bundestag.
- Day 2 Tour of the Olympic Stadium. Visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Night time bus tour of the city.
- Day 3 Tour of the Stasi Prison, Hohenschonhausen. Exhibitions in Bernauer Strasse and the Berlin Wall. Ascent of the Fernsehturm (TV tower). Shopping on the 'Kudamm'. Viewing of Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche.
- Day 4 Denkmal der Ermordeten, Rittersportworld, Checkpoint Charlie, Topography of Terror Exhibition. Brandenburger Tor.
- Day 5 Visit to Mall of Berlin and Potsdamer Platz before departure.

I anticipate the cost of the trip to be between £950 and £990 (dependant on final numbers). This will include:-

- Coach travel to the airport
- Return flights from England to Berlin
- 4 nights in a hotel / youth hostel with half board
- All visits and attractions
- Staff to accompany pupils
- Travel and medical insurance
- A Berlin visit card, which is a travel card that also gives reductions on prices to tourist attractions

Pupils will need a full, valid passport for the trip, an EHIC card and money for lunches and souvenirs.

If you wish your son / daughter to participate in the trip, please return the attached Consent Form to their German or History teacher by 13th September with a £150 deposit payable on ScoPay. If there are any financial difficulties, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Dines, in the strictest confidence.

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.

Should the trip be oversubscribed, we will firstly consider those pupils taking both German and History and then take into account each pupil/students effort grades. Where effort grades are the same, a random ballot will be used. If we are unable to offer your son/daughter a place, their name will be added to a reserve list.

If you have any queries concerning the trip please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

G Wadie (German Department) & J Mackintosh (History Department)