

30 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: New York February 2023

We are now able to give you final plans for our Performing Arts' Trip to New York. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis due to the high level of interest for the trip. The trip is open to GCSE Drama and BTec Dance students studying the subjects when they are in Years 10 and 11. Students can secure their place with a signed permission slip and a deposit of £200. The trip will open for deposits on Monday 4 October. The full balance of the trip needs to be settled by 1 November 2022. Details of the payment plan are overleaf. The cost of the trip will be £1600. As flights have not been released yet, this price is an estimate and the travel company has advised us to let you know there is a small possibility of the flights costing as much as £80 pp more. If flights were less than the estimate we would take this money off the price of the trip. If the flights cost more we will write to you again. As flights have not yet been released the dates and times for the trip need some flexibility. NST has a good history of accuracy when pricing trips so we hope £1600 will be the price of the complete trip. The trip includes:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to New York
- All coach transfers
- 4 nights Bed and Breakfast at Hostelling International New York (5th night return travel home)
- All meals
- Subway travel card
- 2 Broadway shows TBC
- 2 x 90 min Musical Theatre Workshop
- Entrance to Top of the Rock (Rockefeller Centre)
- Tour of NBC Studios
- 3 Course Meal and drink at Ellen's Stardust Diner

Not Included:

- Personal spending money
- ESTA application – that must be completed by families by January 1st 2023
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/entry-requirements> (Cost \$14)

We hope to leave from London on 11 February 2023 and return on 16 February 2023. Once places have been confirmed we will send out a further letter with a more detailed itinerary and hope to hold a parents' meeting in the lead up to the trip. All students need to have a full passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of departure. We are happy for you to contact us with any questions you have before committing to the trip. As stated in our initial letter to families, it is essential students have a positive working relationship with the staff leading the trip to ensure its success for all involved. We look forward to updating you with more information.

If you would like your child to secure a place, please sign and return the permission slip by Monday 11 October 2021 at the latest. The trip will be available to book from Monday 4 October 2021. Please pay the initial deposit by cash or cheque (made payable to The Castle School). Subsequent instalments can be made via Scopay, by cash/cheque or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone).

Payment Plan

- £200 (deposit) ASAP to secure place – from 4 October 2021
- £200 1 December 2021
- £200 1 Feb 2022
- £200 1 April 2022
- £200 1 June 2022
- £200 1 July 2022
- £200 1 Sept 2022
- £200 1 Nov 2022

Yours sincerely

Alexa Step
Head of Performing Arts

Please return completed slips to Student Reception by 11 October 2021.

Trip to New York, February 2023

Name of Student: Tutor Group:

I give permission for my son/daughter to go on the NYC trip.

I enclose cash/cheque for (made payable to The Castle School)

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date: