

16 November 2023

Dear families

Performing Arts Trip to London

We are delighted to be writing to you about an upcoming Performing Arts residential to London this summer. The trip is open, in the first instance, to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who study/plan to study Dance, Drama or Music. If we have spaces available after this we will open the spaces to younger years.

We would leave at 3:30pm on Friday 28 June and return on the evening of Sunday 30 June. The dates of the trip fall after the end of the exams period for Year 11 and the prom on Wednesday 26 June.

We hope to travel by train to London on the Friday evening and make our way to a central hostel. On Saturday we hope to do a back-stage tour of a London theatre, enjoy an afternoon of sightseeing and shopping before heading to the West End to see a show.

On Sunday morning we will take part in a workshop, with performers from the show that we watched, in rehearsal studios in central London. We will then have lunch before returning home on the train.

We had a similar, successful trip in 2022 and feel that students have expressed enough interest to run it again.

The price for the trip is £360. This covers:

- Return train fare to London
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast at Thameside Youth Hostel
- Lunch and dinner on Saturday
- Lunch on Sunday

Students should bring a packed tea for Friday night and we hope to be home for dinner time on Sunday.

The only cost not covered in this price is tube travel once in London between Paddington Station and the youth hostel and from the youth hostel to central London on Saturday and Sunday. We would ask all families to set their child up with a free Oyster travel card with credit on it to enable them to get discounted child/student fares. You can manage the account online and add money.

For students aged 11-15 you can apply for a Zip Oyster card here:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/11-15-zip-oyster-photocard?intcmp=55575>

For students aged 16+ you can apply for a Zip Oyster card here:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/16-plus-zip-oyster-photocard?intcmp=55578>

Both cards give 50% discount on pay as you go fares on tubes and overground. The journey between Paddington and the youth hostel will be between £3-£6 as an example.

There are 30 places on the trip. If you are interested in your child being part of this trip please complete the form below and return to Student Reception by Friday 1 December. If more than 30 students apply then names will be placed in a ballot. You will receive confirmation of your child's place on Monday 4 December. Once your child's place is confirmed you will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £75.00. We suggest the following payment plan below for the remaining payments:

January 3rd: £75
February 2nd: £75
March 4th: £75
April 15th: £60

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes



Alexa Step
Head of Performing Arts
The Castle School

Performing Arts Trip to London – 28-30 June 2024

Please return this form to Student Reception by **Friday 1 December**.

I agree to my son/daughter Form going on this trip.
I know of no medical reason why he/she should not attend this trip.

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date