



24 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

RE Study Visit to Rome and The Vatican.

We are organising a study visit to Rome and the Vatican City for current Year 8 and 9 students, but especially those intending to study Philosophy and Religion as a GCSE option. The purpose of the visit is both religious and historical, as we visit the epicentre of Catholicism at the Sistine Chapel as well as being immersed in the ancient culture of the city.

The visit will take place during the October half term, **Friday 24 – Monday 27 October 2025**. We will be staying 3 nights in a hotel in a central location on a half board basis. We will be visiting a number of sites including:

- Ostia Antica.
- San Callisto Catacombs.
- Guided visit to the Colosseum and Forum.
- Vatican Museums.
- Capitoline Museums.
- The Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon.

The estimated cost of this trip is **£1035** which is dependent on flights and the cost of coach transfer. The cost will include all travel (in the UK and Italy) accommodation and all meals, excursions and travel insurance. Students may bring a small amount of spending money but they will be responsible for this. Students will need their own passport and it is important to check that any current passports they have will be valid for travel next year. Their passports must have been issued less than 10 years before the date you enter the country and valid for at least 3 months after the day we plan to leave. It is also advised that your child has a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which is the replacement for the EHIC. If your child already has an EHIC and it will still be in date when we travel, then it will still be valid. Otherwise, you should apply for a GHIC, free of charge online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in this visit please complete the slip attached and return to Student Reception by the end of school on Tuesday 7 May. As there are only 20 spaces I recommend returning the form as soon as possible. After the Tuesday deadline, if we have more than 30 students for the trip then student names will be placed in a ballot. You will then receive confirmation of your child's place by Thursday 9 May. Once confirmed, you will be required to pay a **deposit of £125** per person by Friday 17 May. Payments can be made either via Scopay, by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone). If you are currently receiving free

please tick the box below as funds are available to cover the cost of the trip.

Once deposits are collected, a letter will be sent out informing you of the instalment dates for the remaining balance. The final balance will be due by 11 July 2025. As soon as we have final costings we will let you know. We will obviously try to keep any increases to a minimum.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information at this stage.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Walker
Second in Humanities Faculty

Study Visit to Rome and Vatican 24 -27 October 2025

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the trip to Italy from Friday 24 to Monday 27 October 2025.

I am currently receiving Free School Meals.

Student's name..... Form.....

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date