

25 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer & Student,

The Golden West Tour – October 2020

I am sending you the below letter again as since I wrote this a lot of things have happened!

I have been in regular contact with the travel company about the current situation and at present we are still planning on running the trip. Guidelines for travel in October have not yet been agreed, so should there be a time where travel is cancelled then we will obviously be in a position to refund all monies so far.

However, until then the percentage charges on the next page applies. This means that if you make the decision to withdraw your child from the trip from now until the start of June you will lose all deposits paid. I realise that these are uncertain times and I would like to be able to give you more information. I do ask that if you would like to withdraw your child from the trip you email me as soon as you can as the number of students determine the number of staff going on the trip. We also have a minimum number we have to work from.

As always please contact me with any other queries or questions. I hope to be able to let you know when the parental meeting and next student meeting will take place soon.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Schulze
Trip Leader & Vice Principal

Copy of the previous letter sent 27th February 2020

ESTA

As you will know, all visitors to the USA must apply for a visa waiver and I am now writing to inform you about information regarding this. You may be aware that the USA passed a legislation to tighten visa waiver restrictions. We know that the bill has now been passed and for passengers travelling from **1st April 2016** the following will apply:

- Anyone who has travelled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria since March 2011 will NOT be eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program (ESTA) and will require a tourist visa.
- Anyone travelling to the US under the Visa Waiver Program will need to have a passport with an integrated chip (an ePassport).

Please read through the following article for more details:

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/08/house-visa-waiver-program-bill-restrictions>

I have included further information about how to apply for the ESTA (Visa Waiver) at the bottom of this letter. The key information needed for your son/daughters application is below. It is essential that this ESTA is applied for by the end of the summer break. If you have any queries please email me at: c.schulze@newbold.outwood.com

- US point of contact – Comfort Inn By the Bay, 2775 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA, 94109-1497, US
- Address while in the US – Comfort Inn By the Bay, 2775 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA, 94109-1497, US
- Emergency contact information in the US: Focus Travel, 330 West 38th Street, Suite 1602, New York, NY 10018. Tel: 001 212 972 9099

Withdrawing from the trip

I have included below the charges that will be made IF your son/daughter withdraws from the trip. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CHARGES WILL NOT APPLY IF A STUDENT FROM THE RESERVE LIST IS WILLING TO REPLACE YOUR SON/DAUGHTER ON THE TRIP.

If any member of your group decides to cancel the following charges will apply:	
Any time after booking	Forfeit all deposits paid
70-29 days before departure	60% of the tour cost
28-15 days before departure	80% of the tour cost

Outstanding payments

Just a polite reminder that the deadline for the total balance to be paid is 14 July 2020. Again if you envisage having any difficulties in adhering to this deadline please email me as soon as possible. Deadlines for all remaining payments should be as follows (you can pay more off if you wish):

- £300 by 3rd December
- £300 by 4th February
- £350 by 24th March
- £350 by 19th May
- £350 by 14th July

Parents evening about the US trip

We will be hosting two parent's event for this trip. The first taking place June and the second in September. Dates of these meetings will be shared nearer the time. Please try to ensure that you can attend these with your son/daughter as essential information will be shared during these events.

Remote supervision

In our next student meeting and during our first parents/carers meeting I will be discussing the use of adopting 'remote supervision' of your son or daughter. What this means is that groups of students (no less than 3 per group) will be allowed to look around a designated area on their own. For example, when we are in LA we will be adopting this whilst visiting universal studios. The key point here is that all remote supervision activities will ALWAYS have clearly defined boundaries. So students would not be allowed to leave universal studios and go outside of these boundaries. In addition to this staff will instruct students about central meeting points and will rendezvous with students on a regular basis throughout their time on their own.

In order for us to allow your son or daughter this remote supervision we must have your written consent to this. Please can I ask that you complete and return the reply slip below as soon as possible? The safety and well-being of your son or daughter is our absolute priority so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this.

If you have any queries or questions about anything covered please do not hesitate to contact me via email: c.schulze@newbold.outwood.com

Yours faithfully,



C. Schulze
Trip Leader & Vice Principal

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Permission slip for Remote Supervision – USA Golden West Tour, October 2020

I give permission for my child to be allowed to look around a designated area in a group of no less than 3. I understand that all remote supervision activities will have clearly defined boundaries and that a member of staff will always be available at a pre-arranged meeting point.

Students Name: _____ Parent/carer Signature: _____

REGULATIONS FOR TRAVEL TO THE USA

All persons travelling to the USA under the visa waiver programme from 12 January 2009 must have obtained travel authorisation using the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA).

You must have obtained authorisation at least 72 hours before departure. This requirement is in addition to the submission of APIS (Additional Passport Information) data which is still required. Authorisation is valid for 2 years.

Each individual traveller must register on-line and we recommend the following site which should take you directly to the official US government site:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta>

Please note the US Government charges for this application. The current cost is \$14.00 per person.

Once on the site each traveller will need to provide the information required and obtain authorisation. It is recommended to print off a hard copy of the authorisation number although this is not compulsory. If your electronic travel authorisation is approved, this approval establishes that you are eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, but does not guarantee that you are admissible to the United States. Upon arrival you will be inspected by a Customs and Border Protection officer at a port of entry who may determine that you are inadmissible under the Visa Waiver Program or for any reason under United States law.

The information required includes personal information and passport information. For this reason no one other than the applicant should complete the form. Some of the information e.g. phone numbers, flight details and accommodation details are optional and therefore do not have to be completed. Please note that at the time of writing the system does not recognise UK phone numbers so this field cannot be meaningfully completed, but is in any case optional. In the event of any difficulties the site contains a comprehensive help section and the ability to submit questions for on-line help.

New rules passed by the US Congress on 18 December 2015 will exclude from the VWP most people who have travelled to **Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen** since March 2011, as well as those who have dual nationality of these countries. And with effect from 1 April 2016, anyone travelling to the US under the VWP will need to have a passport with an integrated chip (an ePassport).

All clients travelling will require ESTA authorisation or a visa in order to start their journey to the USA. Please refer to the Help link of the above website for a list of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program. It is the responsibility of each client to obtain the necessary documentation to satisfy the US immigration authorities.



UK passport displaying ePassport symbol