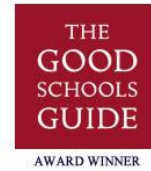




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November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

## Music Tour to New York City, USA – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

It is with great excitement that I am writing to confirm that our triennial music tour has been confirmed. We are planning a trip of a lifetime to explore and perform in New York City. We will have the opportunity to tour the city and experience the many opportunities the location has to offer including the chance to perform at a variety of incredible venues.

### Destination

With its love of contemporary arts, popular culture and fascinating excursion possibilities New York is an ideal destination for our concert tour. New York enjoys a beautiful summer climate of warm, long sunny days that will facilitate a perfect setting to explore and perform in this striking location.

### Accommodation

We shall be staying on Manhattan Island in a central location to the south west of Central Park at the very reputable West Side YMCA. The choice of accommodation is ideal, the facilities include indoor basketball courts, a gym, communal areas and a lifeguarded swimming pool. We are within walking distance of incredible sights and world famous landmarks including our performance locations. We will have primary access to an entire floor and all rooms are on a twin sharing basis.

### Performances

We have secured at least 3 performance locations for this trip, these include:

- **Central Park** – a stage in the iconic 840 acre city garden.
- **Intrepid** – a concert on board the legendary aircraft carrier located on the Hudson River as part of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.
- **Washington Square Park** – singing under the marble Roman triumphal arch in the culturally rich and popular film location situated in Greenwich Village.

### Excursions to include:

- A guide of the city and its inspiring musical heritage from Jazz to Opera. Taking in sights such as Broadway, Blecker St, Times Square, Carnegie Hall and the Radio City Music hall to name a few.
- Entrance to Top of The Rock which involves travelling up 70 floors to the observatory tower to witness the breathtaking New York Skyline.
- A 90 minute river cruise to see the city from the water and to get a closer look at the Statue of Liberty.
- Entrance to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.
- Tickets to the Observation Deck at the One World Observatory (the tallest building in the western hemisphere) and a visit to the 9/11 Memorial Pool.
- A stroll across the iconic Brooklyn Bridge.



## Travel

We will be flying between London and New York. Our tour includes airport transfers whilst in New York and also between Sackville and our London airport. The cost includes a journey on the New York Subway.

## Insurance

Insurance for all school trips is arranged through West Sussex County Council. Full details of the policy can be found on our website at <https://sackville.w-sussex.sch.uk/parents/school-trip-insurance/>. In the unlikely event that a student has to be removed from the visit due to poor behavior, we reserve the right not to refund the voluntary contribution/cost associated with this visit. **Peanuts or peanut related products are not allowed to be taken on any school visit.**

## What's included in the price

- Return flights.
- Return Transfers.
- Accommodation.
- Breakfast each day.
- 3 course evening meals at a variety of restaurants.
- Full excursion programme to include entrance tickets and transport.
- Organisation and publicity of at least 3 concerts.
- Services of an NST Tour Manager.
- Comprehensive, no surcharge, Travel Insurance (see above).

## How to book

You are invited to make a voluntary contribution of £1,697.00, which will cover the cost of the visit including transport and other incidental costs. I must, however, tell you that as the school could not bear the cost of the visit, the visit will not take place unless parents, who are able to, are willing to contribute.

Payments in full of £1,697.00 are welcome or alternatively please follow the payment schedule below:

- 1st payment of £125.00 by 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to secure your place
- 2nd payment of £393.00 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 3rd payment of £393.00 by 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- 4th payment of £393.00 by 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- final payment of £393.00 by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to complete the payment

**Please note: All payments are non-refundable (except for insurable reasons).**

Please remember that if your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium Government grant we can use that to pay for some of the cost of the music trip to New York. Should you wish us to do so please liaise with Mrs Hannah Nibloe.

The tour is open to students in all year groups and there are no requirements to play an instrument. However, you will be expected to sing as part of the Sackville Singers. We will also be taking amps, a guitar, bass and percussion instruments. Students can form bands around this setup and use the instruments we take. If they wish to take their own instrument, as separate luggage, then baggage charges will apply. Every trip member will be automatically enrolled into the Sackville Singers and will sing on tour. In preparation for this, they must attend rehearsals at school and also perform in the school concerts.

Please be aware that due to the distant date of this trip, it is currently not possible to book flights for 2021 because seats have not been released yet. The price is therefore an estimate based on next year's prices. The cost has been formulated by our very

experienced, ATOL protected tour operator – NST. I must make you aware that there is a slight chance that the price could change, especially if the exchange rate between the dollar and the pound moves significantly. It will also help if we keep the date for departure/return slightly flexible at this early stage to secure the best price possible.

I have aimed to include all costs in the price but there are a couple of extras that you will need to consider, these include:

- Spending money.
- Money for lunches.
- Tipping for some services.
- Esta/visa & passport.
- Additional musical instrument baggage charge, if applicable.

I hope you agree that this is possibly a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students, it offers the potential to broaden and enrich their studies and musical experiences. The tours are always a highlight to the school calendar and places are sought after.

We have 40 places available, if we become oversubscribed then we will select students using a ballot based system.

The deposit payment of £125.00 needs to be paid via the online payment system by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to secure your place.

If you have any questions please do get in contact. My email is [theatley@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:theatley@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Tom Heatley  
**Curriculum Leader of Music**

To: Mr T Heatley – **Curriculum Leader of Music**

**Music Tour to New York, USA – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my child to be considered for the 2021 Music Tour to New York, USA.

I accept that my child's inclusion is dependent on all of the following:

- Attending rehearsals and performances (unless by prior arrangement with Mr Heatley).
- Payments being made on time. A deposit of £125.00 is required to secure your child's place.
- I understand this amount is non-refundable and commits my child to the trip. (Should the trip be full, my payment will be returned).
- I have read carefully and taken note of all of the above conditions.

I have forwarded the £125.00 deposit to Sackville School via the online payment system.

My child is eligible for the Pupil Premium Government grant and I will be contacting Mrs H Nibloe to discuss further.

Parent/Carer name (please sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_