



19 March 2025

Dear Families

Thank you for submitting your deposit to confirm your child's interest in the 2026 trip to San Francisco. The trip is now confirmed to depart on Friday 20 February 2026 and return on Wednesday 25 February 2026. To help with managing the cost, we have set up a payment plan. The instalments are as follows:

- April – November: £238.33 per month
- December: £238.36

As you may be aware, there are specific entry requirements for travelling to the USA. The school requires all participants to have a valid ESTA or Visa to be eligible for the trip.

Passport and Visa Requirements:

For British citizens, your passport should be valid for the duration of your stay in the United States. No additional validity is required. To enter the US, you will need either a visa or, if eligible, you may travel under the Visa Waiver Programme (VWP). All travellers must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) in advance, which can be done online for a fee of USD \$21. Please ensure this is completed prior to departure, as failure to do so will result in denied boarding and you will not be allowed to travel.

Important Note:

Any travel to Cuba on or after Tuesday 12 January 2021 will make the traveller ineligible for the VWP, meaning they will need to apply for a visa instead. This process can be both costly and time-consuming. At present, the wait time for a US visa appointment at the US Embassy in London is approximately 110 days.

ESTA Application Process:

ESTA is an automated system that determines eligibility for travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program. You can apply for ESTA online through the Official ESTA Application Website or using the ESTA Mobile app (available for Android and iOS). All travellers entering the US by air, land, or sea under the VWP must have an approved ESTA.

You may not be eligible for ESTA if you have:

- Been arrested (even if not convicted)
- A criminal record
- Been refused entry to, or deported from, the US
- Previously overstayed under the ESTA program

You may also be ineligible for an ESTA if you have visited the following countries on or after March 2011:

- Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Additionally, if you travelled to or were in Cuba on or after Tuesday 12 January 2021, you will not be eligible for the VWP.

If you are not eligible for ESTA, you must apply for a US visa instead.

For the most current entry requirements, you can check the official guidance here: [UK Government USA Entry Requirements](#).

I will provide further information closer to the trip date, but please feel free to contact me should you have any questions in the meantime – ebenjamin@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Ms Elaine Benjamin
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