

19 March 2020



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## **Overseas School Trips**

I am writing to update you about the recent Government guidance with respect to Overseas school trips.

*'The government advises against any overseas trips for children under 18 organised by educational settings. This is because trip leaders would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure children's welfare, should adult supervisors or children be required to self-isolate.'*

The link to the latest guidance can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector#travel-insurance>

As a result we are arranging for the cancellation of all planned overseas trips through to the end of the 2019/20 academic year. We will make no new bookings for overseas school trips until the start of the 2020/21 academic year, provided that the Government advice against travel has also been lifted.

We will seek compensation firstly from the travel operator and will recover the remaining balance from the Government's RPA insurance for schools. We expect to be able to fully recover all balances paid. As there are many thousands of trips currently being cancelled this process may take some time. However, we will issue refunds to parents as soon as we have received refunds and/or insurance proceeds.

At present, the Department for Education is not advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) but we will be making decisions on individual trips nearer the time.

I am sure that many of our students will be disappointed that they have lost the opportunity to gain a valuable experience outside of the classroom, however under the current circumstances we are left with no option but to cancel.

Mr M Thomas  
Assistant Headteacher