



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

TRIP465 Year 9 Beth Shalom Visits 2024

Your child is currently studying Judaism as a world religion which forms a major part of our Year 9 course. As a complement to the course, we take each Year 9 group to a Holocaust Memorial Centre in Laxton, Nottinghamshire, called Beth Shalom. The aim is to provide a glimpse into this 20th Century human tragedy which has so much relevance to contemporary society.

Each visit will be departing school at 8.15 am and returning at 3.40 pm. School uniform is compulsory and students will also need to bring a packed lunch along with a pen or pencil. The exact dates arranged for each Year 9 group are as follows:

Tuesday February 6th 2024 - 9B, 9C, 9L and 9R

Wednesday February 7th 2024 - 9E, 9N, 9S and 9U

At Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre there is a sensitive and professional permanent exhibition outlining the history of the Jews of Europe and Anti-Semitism, the rise to power of Hitler and the Third Reich, along with an overview of the ghetto period and the Final Solution. There is also a library and memorial hall and landscaped memorial gardens, alongside an exhibition of the genocide in Rwanda. Some time ago Ecclesbourne staff, parents and students planted a rose and offered a memorial plaque in memory of the Holocaust victims. Things are set in a peaceful environment and the aim of our visit is to inspire students rather than shock, and offer a degree of awareness about the Holocaust, which would be more difficult to fulfil in a classroom situation. Students will be provided with a worksheet pack to complete (and will therefore need a pen and something to lean on). This work will be used in follow-up lessons on our return to school.

In addition to this visit, we use supportive video material as part of our delivery of the Holocaust curriculum. The documentary 'The Holocaust, A Painful Reminder' is by its nature often distressing to those who view it. We make no apologies for this as we regard it as an essential part of your child's education and will provide an invaluable resource to follow-up work. We also envisage showing extracts from the films "Schindler's List" and "The Pianist", which both carry a '15' certificate and therefore cannot be shown without parental consent. We may also view the film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas".

If you do have any objections to our showing any Holocaust related film could we please ask that you inform us as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made for these lessons. Equally, we, as a department, are encouraging Year 9 students to watch any relevant documentaries and other programmes which may be screened on or around Holocaust Remembrance Day and visit the Holocaust Memorial Day website, so please look out for these.

Payment

We cannot legally impose a charge for this trip, but we can ask parents to make a voluntary contribution of £27.50 towards its cost, provided we do not treat differently those who choose not to contribute. In this instance, unless the majority feel able to contribute, we shall not be able to run the trip out of school funds. However, the school carries some funds to help when families face severe financial difficulties and if you feel that your child genuinely needs assistance to pay for the event, please discuss this with me in the first instance and your request will be considered in the strictest confidence with the appropriate Head of School.

In the event of your child not being able to take part in this trip, every effort will be made to find a replacement. If this is not possible then we regret that any monies already paid will not be refundable.

Despite our best efforts to balance income and expenditure, school trips do infrequently generate a small financial surplus. When this occurs refunds are given for sums of over £5:00 per head. However, due to associated administrative costs, refunds will not be given for sums less than this, which will hence revert to the School fund and may be used to help students who are financially disadvantaged to access similar opportunities.

Payment for this trip should be made online via the ParentPay system by 19 January 2024. When payment is made using the ParentPay you will be prompted to tick a box indicating that you give your consent for your child to participate in the trip/event and agree to any conditions stated in the trip letter.

If you have opted to use the PayPoint system you will need to complete a reply slip to request a letter containing the appropriate barcode, which will enable you to pay by cash at any local store participating in the PayPoint method. This reply slip will also ask for your consent to any conditions stated in the trip letter. [Please note: PayPoint cards are for cashless catering only. A barcoded letter is required for all other payments, i.e. trips/events; technology costs etc.]

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and you wish them to be considered for financial support for this trip, then please email Mrs Green as soon as possible (hgreen@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk).

Conduct

In the interests of legality and the school's reputation in matters of propriety, any student who attempts to purchase or consume alcohol, to smoke or to engage in the abuse of other substances will face a full investigation by the school which could result in serious disciplinary action. When paying for the trip via Parent Pay you will be prompted to tick a box to indicate that you signify your acceptance of these conditions and are willing to impress upon your children the consequences of not complying with these rules.

We are aware that students may wish to take mobile phones and other small valuable items of equipment with them. Should they do so, the items will be the student's responsibility and will be taken at their own risk. Accompanying staff cannot accept any responsibility for such items.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's Religious Studies teacher.

Yours sincerely

Helen Green

Assistant Head –Diversity, Equality and Inclusion; Head of Religious Studies

REPLY SLIP

Payment and permission for this trip should be made via Parent Pay on the school website.

Only complete this reply slip if you wish to pay via PayPoint in your local shop instead. Please return to Finance Office.

TRIP NAME: TRIP465 Beth Shalom

Student Name: _____ Form: _____

Please issue me with a barcoded letter to enable me to pay via PayPoint by 19 January 2024.

I have read the statement regarding Consumption of Alcohol/Drugs and agree to comply with the conditions therein.

Signature: _____ Parent/Carer