

25 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Sixth Form History & Politics Trip to Washington DC: October 2026

As we move closer to our Sixth Form History & Politics trip to Washington DC in October, we are busy finalising an itinerary that will bring the US political system to life for our students.

Whilst we are excited about the educational value of this trip, we also recognise that the current political landscape in the United States - specifically regarding changes to immigration enforcement and travel regulations in early 2026 - has naturally raised questions regarding student safeguarding. Please be assured that we take the safeguarding of our students very seriously and have been planning to allow for the safest possible trip, whilst maintaining the educational value and enjoyment.

Whilst we are in Washington, students have limited free time (to go round a museum or get lunch, etc) and during this free time there will always be a member of staff close by with a clear meeting point. Students will also have access to the trip emergency telephone number at all times. The itinerary has been adapted to limit the amount of free time that students have.

We will be advising students to take hard copies (high quality, colour) of both their passport and ESTA confirmation and carry these copies with them at all times. All students will also be given a letter on Parmiter's headed paper to carry with them, which will have the contact details of the trip leader and be signed by the Headteacher. When we arrive in the US, students will be given a briefing about how to approach immigration and what questions will be asked (where are you staying, purpose of visit, etc). Before travelling, students will be advised on how to engage with ICE officers in the unlikely event of being questioned. If students were to be detained, parents would be contacted immediately, as well as the emergency contact at school and the support line for our RPA cover. The British Embassy in Washington DC is available to UK citizens, should assistance ever be required. This is a standard safeguard for all international school travel.

The staff accompanying the trip are very experienced trip leaders, with Miss Lincoln in particular having extensive knowledge of Washington DC and, as such, the itinerary has been suitably amended to account for the current situation.

We would like to reassure you that ICE does not target tourists or school groups who are lawfully present in the country.

It is also important to note that:

- School groups visiting Washington DC are extremely common, including many international groups each year.
- ICE enforcement activity is focused on specific legal matters and does not involve routine interaction with tourists.

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- There is no requirement for students to engage with ICE during normal sightseeing activities.
- At airports, standard immigration checks apply equally to all travellers and are handled in a routine and professional manner.

Insurance Cover Information:

For the upcoming Sixth Form trip to Washington, the school is a member of the Department for Education's **Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA)**. This is not a traditional insurance scheme, but a government-funded mechanism that covers risks for academies and free schools.

The following summary outlines the key protections provided for students and staff during the trip.

Key Financial Limits and Cover:

- **Medical and Emergency Expenses:** The RPA provides up to **£10 000 000 per person** for medical, surgical, or remedial treatment required during the trip. It also covers the full cost of transporting a student back to the UK (repatriation) if medically necessary.
- **Foreign Hospital Benefit:** If a student is admitted to a hospital as an in-patient, they are entitled to **£75 per day** for up to 12 weeks.
- **Personal Baggage:** Protection is provided up to **£2 000 per person** for lost, stolen or damaged belongings. Please note there is a **£50 retention (excess)** applicable to each claim.
- **Travel Disruption (cancellation and curtailment):** Coverage is provided up to **£4 000 per person** for journeys that must be cancelled or cut short due to causes outside of our control.
- **Personal Money:** Students are covered for the loss of cash or signed travellers' cheques up to **£750**.
- **Personal Liability:** Cover of up to **£5 000 000** is in place should a student become legally liable for accidental injury to a third party or damage to their property.

Safety and Assistance:

- **24/7 Emergency Support:** While in Washington, the school has access to a dedicated **24/7 emergency medical and security assistance** line (+44 (0)20 3475 5031).
- **Legal Protection:** Students have access to up to **£50 000** in legal expenses to pursue claims for injury or illness caused by a third party while abroad.

Yours sincerely



Miss Lincoln
Trip Co-ordinator



& Mr Whitehouse
Business Director