



16 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Music department tour to Edinburgh: 11-15 July 2022

I would like to offer your son or daughter the opportunity to take part in a Music tour to Edinburgh, from 11 July to 15 July 2022. The purpose of this trip is primarily to perform; students will have the opportunity to participate in at least three concerts in prestigious venues around the city and gain invaluable experience of performing to large audiences in a different setting. Such an opportunity to showcase their musical talents to a different audience is one that I am sure will be of great interest to many of our students, not to mention how beneficial it will be for their musical development.

We will be staying at the five-star A&O SafeStay accommodation in Edinburgh city centre. This location is a perfect base for those looking to explore all that the city has to offer, near to many famous attractions, cultural hotspots and shops. Our students will take part in a number of activities and outings organised as part of the trip, in addition to the concerts we will be putting on, which is the primary purpose of the trip.

There will be certain times when students are allowed free time. At these times they may be permitted to wander more freely, but in groups no smaller than four, around easily defined areas such as a square or a clearly identified block of streets. Students will not be allowed to wander alone or outside the defined area or leave the group without the explicit permission of staff. It is important that parents realise that individual students will not be under the direct supervision of staff at all times during the visit although staff will remain within the designated areas so that they are available should difficulties arise. An emergency number will be issued to the group to be used if they get separated at any time.

We will take a return coach trip from St Martin's to Scotland. The cost will be £784 per student inclusive of half-board accommodation, travel, concerts and all excursions. Students may also wish to bring around £10-15 per day to spend in their free time and to buy lunch. I will be leading the trip accompanied by four colleagues. Places on the trip will be randomly allocated by computer to ensure fairness, although I must draw attention to the fact that priority will be given to current GCSE and A-level Music students due to the nature of the trip and the number of live concerts we will be performing. If all thirty spaces are not filled by these students, the remaining places will be randomly allocated to any students in Year 9 or above willing to participate in our concerts whilst we are in Edinburgh. You do not need to enclose a deposit at this stage; if your child is successful in gaining a place you will be informed and a deposit of £80 will be due by Friday 25 March. It is important to note that should the payment deadline be missed your child's place on the trip may be in jeopardy. Unsuccessful students will be placed on a waiting list.

If you are interested in your child participating, please complete the attached consent form with full medical information and dietary requirements included. Please return the consent form to the finance office by Friday 18 March. I appreciate that this is a tight turnaround, however unfortunately the accommodation is only able to hold the rooms for a short period of time. Any monies paid throughout the process are non-refundable unless a replacement for your son or daughter is found.

Be The Best You Can Be

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on 01277 238353 or mharris@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Harris
Head of Music