



3 January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Chicago Business and Economics Trip 2019**

I would like to offer your son or daughter the opportunity to take part in the Chicago Business and Economics Trip 2019. The dates of the trip are Thursday 17 October 2019 to Thursday 24 October 2019. The trip will be led by myself, Mr Bethell, and I will be accompanied by deputy leader, Mr Wilkinson (Head of Business and Economics) as well as other faculty members. We are using the tour company 'Red Line Group Travel' which the school has previously used for a recent trip to Los Angeles and for a number of other trips, all with extremely positive reviews.

The cost of the trip will be £1672. The cost will include accommodation, flights, and transport in America, breakfast and evening meals, a USA tour representative for the duration of our stay, all excursions and visits, travel to and from the airport in the UK and all administrative costs. We are staying at the Freehand Hotel, Chicago. The cost for lunch and other expenses is not included. I would suggest that students allow about £10 per day for extra food and drink depending on their taste and appetites. In some cases parents may be required to pay an additional insurance surcharge depending upon the personal medical circumstances of the student concerned. If your child holds a non-UK passport then you may need a visa which could incur an extra cost. Your child will require a biometric passport to come on this trip.

A few of the itinerary highlights are:

- *City Overview Tour & Talk with Business Exec*
- *Cubs Baseball Game*
- *Dinner at Guorganos Chicago Pizza*
- *Hancock Building Observatory*
- *Chicago Board Options Exchange Experience*
- *Chicago River Architectural Cruise*
- *The Art Institute and Millennium Park*
- *Foodlife Water Tower*
- *Chicago Federal Reserve Money Museum*
- *Dinner at Latin City*
- *Macys History & Business Tour*
- *Chicago Theatre Tour*
- *Dinner at Italian Village*
- *Shedd Aquarium*
- *Board Spirit of Chicago*
- *Magnificent Mile (Shops)*

On this trip we will give very explicit limits within which we expect students to operate. The exact degree of freedom they will be given will depend upon the activity but it will often require the whole group keeping together. Staff are particularly concerned that no students wander alone or outside the defined area and never 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 they are available should difficulty arise. There has been a noticeable increase in the level of security on recent trips and it is important therefore that students listen carefully to information and instructions and are particularly aware of their surroundings especially when

moving as a large group, using public transport and after dark. No smoking or alcohol will be permitted on this trip.

The visit is only open to students who will be attending St Martin's School in September 2019. If you would like your son or daughter to take part in this trip, please return the attached slip and consent form, together with a non-refundable deposit of £395 by Friday 1 February 2019. Then a further £319.25 will need to be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month from March and up to and including June 2019. The reply slip, completed consent form with deposit (by cheque made payable to St Martin's School) must be returned to the school finance office. **The payments from March to June must be paid via ParentPay.** ParentPay allows you to pay as many instalments as you want to suit your budget but please ensure the minimum is made by each deadline. Failure to keep up with payments could jeopardise your child attending this trip.

There is a current maximum of 30 places available, with the trip being offered to current Year 12. Therefore, if there are too many students wanting to attend we will pick names by a random computer generated selection. You should be aware that this trip has been approved by the school's governors. After the deadline of Friday 1 February 2019 I will be able to confirm places accepted on the trip. Where students are unsuccessful in obtaining a place initially, I will maintain a waiting list and places will be offered later in the year should they become available through others dropping out or leaving the school.

I will be holding an information evening for this trip in June 2019 and will send out further details of this closer to the time. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email [mbethell@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:mbethell@st-martins.essex.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

Mr M Bethell  
***Teacher of Business and Economics***

-----  
Chicago Business and Economics Trip 2019

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student details -

First Name (of student): \_\_\_\_\_

Surname Name (of student): \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit attached (Circle): Yes or No

Business or/and Economics Student (Circle): Business or/and Economics

Parent and Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_