



24 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 8 Geography trip to Naples and Sorrento

The geography department will be running an optional five day trip to The Bay of Naples and Sorrento for our current year 8 students. Students will travel via plane from London Stansted (flight times to be confirmed.) This trip is to build up a cultural appreciation of different areas and to deepen a geographical understanding of tectonic hazards. An itinerary of the visit is shown below. The trip will run between Friday 6 and Tuesday 10 November 2020.

Day 1 – On arrival, we will travel via coach to Naples to visit the Naples Underground Cisterns, meet our guide and undertake a guided tour of Naples. We will then continue our coach transfer to our hotel in Sorrento.

Day 2 – We will visit Mount Vesuvius, focussing on its destructive power. Classed as potentially one of the most dangerous active volcanos, students will learn about its formation and eruption history. The trip will be compounded by a visit to Pompeii to uncover the effects of the eruption in 79AD.

Day 3 – Amalfi Drive. Our own private coach with guided drive along the Amalfi coastal road above the Tyrrhenian Sea; students will learn more about the geomorphology and management of this dramatic coastline. Half day Amalfi Coach Tour with a two hour stop in Amalfi and Ravello. We will view Positano from above.

Day 4 – We will visit the caves of Pertosa, also officially known as the Grotte dell'Angelo (Caves of the Angel), which are set in an attractive natural amphitheatre, in the green landscape of the Alburni mountain of the Cilento National Park.

Day 5 – Return Home.

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 of no less than four, around easily defined areas such as shopping malls, a square or a clearly identified block of streets indicated by a map which will be given to the individual student. 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.

The cost of the trip will be £586, which will include return flights, four night's accommodation in Sorrento, all excursions within Italy, guided tours, travel insurance and coach travel to and from the airport in the UK. Students will be required to share single sex rooms whilst in Italy. The hotel will also provide packed lunches for the excursions as-well as breakfast and an evening meal. The cost of the trip does not include spending money; as a general recommendation, we suggest £15 per day. Students will be expected to change their own money into Euros before departing on the trip and will be responsible for any money they bring with them.

There will be 40 places available on this trip which will be led by myself along with three accompanying staff members. If you would like your son or daughter to be considered, please can you fill in the attached consent form indicating your initial interest in the trip, and return it to the finance office no later than Friday 28 February 2020. **When completing the consent form, please ensure that the student's name is very clearly written and is identical to the name on the passport that your son or daughter will be carrying at the time of the trip.** Please be aware that at this point no payment needs to be made. If your son or daughter is successful in gaining a place, then a further letter will be sent to you asking for a deposit of £150. This will need to be paid by the date stated on that letter to confirm the reservation for your son or daughter.

Students will be selected for the trip on a randomly generated computer system; unsuccessful students will be placed on a waiting list. We are duty bound as far as is possible, to ensure that all students are safe whilst on the trip; therefore, if a student is involved in any serious disciplinary breach before the departure date, we reserve the right to cancel their place without the guarantee of a refund.

Students will need valid European Union passports and European Health Insurance Cards. Applications for these should be made no later than July. Please inform me on the slip below if your son or daughter holds a passport from a country outside the European Union as students may need to gain the correct visas in advance. The cost of the trip does not allow for visa or passport applications and all these costs must be borne by parents.

I do hope that your son or daughter will be able to take part in this exciting trip to get to know Italy and deepen their geographical knowledge.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school via email zrichards@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr Z Richards
Teacher of Geography & Trip Leader

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Year 8 Trip to Sorrento, Italy 6 November to 10 November 2020

Student name: Form:

My son/daughter* has/does not have* an EU passport.

**Delete as appropriate*