



# THE DOWNS SCHOOL

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17 May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Current Years 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12 Sports Tour to Holland April 2017**

I am very pleased to be able to invite your son/daughter on a sports tour to Holland. The PE department would like to take the current years 7-9 netball team, years 8 & 9 football teams and the current year 11 and 12 hockey team away to Holland for five days (4 nights) during the Easter break of 2017. The exact dates are 10 – 14 April 2017.

As the hockey team are playing matches against the Dutch opposition we need a minimum of 11 players to take part. If there are insufficient numbers, this part of the tour will not be able to go ahead and deposits will be refunded.

The tour is run by an experienced company called Master Class and is for five days, four nights in Valkenburg in Southern Holland. Further details of the company can be found at the following website <http://www.masterclasstours.co.uk/>.

The school has run very successful trips with Master Class in the past, including two trips to Cyprus and one to Malta. The company is ATOL and ABTA bonded. Travel will be by coach and ferry. I will be leading the tour and I will be accompanied by four other members of staff. The accommodation is on a multi share apartment style gender split rooms in a 3\* resort.

The tour includes:

- Full board accommodation
- Return coach travel and ferries with a reputable company
- 3 coaching sessions for each sport
- Netball tournament
- Dutch opposition for the hockey and football teams
- Entry to the MasterClass Tournament
- Excursions around the local area depending on when and where fixtures are eg lazer quest, bowling, pancake house
- Tour Hoody & Polo Shirt
- Travel insurance
- Bottled water at all fixtures

Please note, there will be free time in the hotel and the local area as it is pedestrianised. Some of the students' rest and relaxation time will not be supervised directly but they will be expected to follow the rules laid out by the staff of The Downs School, and those of the tour company and the hotel. There will be a Code of Conduct issued which will need to be signed by both the student and parent.

### **Visas, Passports and EHICs**

Each student must have their own passport which must be valid for the duration of the trip, please check the expiry date now. British Citizens do not need a visa to enter the country. If your child has a valid non-UK passport please check if any visas are required to enter Holland and inform me immediately. All students will also need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). These can be obtained without charge from the NHS website.

### **Payment & Places**

**The estimated cost of the trip is £607.** This is based on 40 students going on the trip, if fewer students take part the price will have to increase and you will be informed of this. *Please note, if there are fewer than 35 students, the trip may become unviable or the cost may rise slightly depending on the number of interested parties.* By booking a place through paying the non-refundable deposit (£200) you agree to pay the full cost of the trip. If oversubscribed, places will be allocated by a random draw of names from a hat. If your son/daughter is unsuccessful in gaining a place the deposit will be refunded to you.

Payments (on the current basis) will be required in 4 instalments as follows:

<b>Deposit payment due by 17/06/2016</b>	<b>£200</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> instalment by 09/09/2016</b>	<b>£155</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> instalment by 07/10/2016</b>	<b>£152</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> instalment by 30/11/2016</b>	<b>£100</b>

**Payment of the non-refundable deposit must be made by Friday 17 June 3.30pm to be entered into the draw for a place.**

Payment should be made using ParentPay. If you do not wish to use ParentPay then please put cheque payments (payable to The Downs School) in an envelope marked "Holland Sports Tour 2017" with your child's name and tutor group on the back, taking care to complete and enclose the slip at the bottom of this letter. Your child is then responsible for putting this into the secure, finance office post box. Receipts will not be issued. Following the Government pupil premium funding arrangements, LIFT, FSM and EVER6FSM students can receive a contribution of £100 towards the cost of this trip (if they obtain a place). **The initial deposit must be paid in full.**

As already mentioned, if you are unsuccessful in being allocated a place, your deposit will be refunded. In all other circumstances, deposits are non-refundable. By requesting a place you will be under an obligation to pay subsequent payments (if your child is successful) and cancellation charges will apply on a sliding scale should you withdraw from the trip at a later date. Full details of these are available on request. The school's decision as regards place allocation is final.

You will be notified in writing whether or not your child has secured a place with the first payment then being due on 9 September 2016. Please note that failure to make subsequent payments by the dates specified could jeopardise your child's place and could result in cancellation charges.

There will be a reserve list and you will be notified if your child is on this list. Deposits for students on the reserve list will be refunded until a place becomes available.

The trip is open to those who train and play regularly for the school teams. **I must stress that students' behaviour and attitude records will be taken into account over the next year** and we reserve the right to refuse to take those students whose poor behaviour may tarnish the good name of The Downs or whose actions may put themselves or others in danger. We also reserve the right to withdraw any student whose behaviour at school deteriorates between now and the

departure date. In these circumstances the amount of refund will depend on the cancellation arrangements. Refunds may not be possible in the event of a student having to be withdrawn from the trip for the above reasons.

The school has personal accident and travel cover insurance for school trips. Full details of the policy are available from the Business Manager on request.

Please note, there is also a Sixth Form performing arts trip to New York for students studying media, art, music, dance, drama, performing arts and production arts and there may also be the opportunity for those students taking geography to attend a field trip to Iceland. These trips are scheduled for Easter 2017.

We very much hope that your child will be able to participate in this exciting trip we are offering. If you would like any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

*S. Miller-Cook*

Mrs S. Miller-Cook  
Tour Leader

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**Holland Sports Tour 10 – 14 April 2017**

**Request for Place – Cheque payments only**

**Please return to the Finance Office post box no later than Friday 17 June 2016 3.30pm**

Name of Student (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my son / daughter to take part in the sports tour as set out in the letter and I confirm that I would like her / his name included in the draw for a place. I understand that this means that if successful I will be required to pay the remainder of the cost of the trip in instalments

**I enclose the non-refundable cheque deposit of £200. (This will only be refunded if you do not secure a place).**

I accept that the decision regarding the allocation of places by the school is final.

Signature of Parent/Carer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_