



RED HOUSE
SCHOOL

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Dear Parent

Year 9 Visit to Edinburgh – Friday 1 December

A cross-curricular visit to Edinburgh on Friday, 1 December, covering, Biology and English has been organised for Year 9. While there, we shall be visiting the National Museum of Scotland. Their diverse collections will take pupils on a journey through the history of Scotland and the wider world, covering nature, science design, fashion, art and technology. Whilst at the museum, pupils will take part in a workshop and they will explore how adaptations evolved through natural selection on a range of animals. Pupils will handle animal specimens, including a sawfish snout, arctic fox fur and elephant tooth to investigate and draw their own conclusions. Animal adaptations is a topic covered on the GCSE syllabus for both Biology and Religious Studies.

After lunch, pupils will visit Mary King's Close. This 17th century close is one of the many underground streets that were built over during the modernisation of Edinburgh's old town. The lower floors acted as the foundation for The Royal Exchange, built in 1753 (now The City Chambers) and over 250 years later the floors below remain largely unchanged. During the war years the underground vaults were used as an air-raid shelter. Mary King's Close was re-opened to the public in April 2003. 'The Real Mary King's Close' is displayed as a historically accurate example of life in Edinburgh between the 16th and 19th centuries. This visit supports the 'historical context' assessment objective required for the English Literature GCSE syllabus, as pupils study a 19th century novel and 19th century Literature poetry. If time permits, we will also visit the Christmas Markets.

Pupils will be transported to Edinburgh by train; the service we have booked will leave Darlington railway station at 8.05am. Pupils need to be at Darlington Railway Station no later than 7.45am. However, there will be a member of staff at the station from 7.30am. The return train journey arrives in Darlington at approximately 7.30pm.

A buffet lunch at Pizza Hut will also be provided. Children may bring further supplies if they wish (but no chewing gum) and drinks must be in a re-sealable plastic bottle only. Pupils may bring pocket money (£30 maximum) to buy souvenirs. Pupils are to wear home clothes suitable for a winter's day in Edinburgh. This should include a coat and comfortable shoes as we will be walking between venues. If your child suffers from asthma or severe allergic reactions please ensure their inhaler/medication/epipen is with them, if they do not have them, they will be unable to go on the trip.

The cost of the trip will be £41 which will be added to your Spring term account; this covers train fare and attraction admission/workshop costs. The trip will be subject to the conditions as set out in the Parent Contract, and will be covered by the school's insurance policy. A full risk assessment has been undertaken by the group leader. A qualified first aider will be accompanying the trip. The children should not bring expensive personal items with them. The school cannot be held responsible for the care of these if any pupil brings them, and insurance will not cover them. We endeavour to take photographs on as many school trips as possible, please visit our website, Facebook and twitter pages to view a selection of photographs.

If you have any questions regarding this trip please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Roberts
Head of Teaching & Learning

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