



RED HOUSE  
SCHOOL

36 The Green  
Norton  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS20 1DX

01642 553370  
office@redhouseschool.co.uk  
www.redhouseschool.co.uk

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Dear Parent

### **Year 9 Visit to Edinburgh: Thursday 6 December**

A cross-curricular visit to Edinburgh on Friday 6 December, covering Physics, Religious Studies, Geography and English has been organised for Year 9. While there we shall be visiting Dynamic Earth, the award winning attraction that tells the story of the Earth. The pupils will take part in a workshop on climate change; a topic covered on the GCSE syllabus for both Chemistry and Geography.

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 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. '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 8.06am. 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 hot lunch at the café in Dynamic Earth will 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.

The cost of the trip will be £45 which will be added to your Spring Term account. The trip will be subject to the conditions set out in the Parent Contract and will be covered by the school's insurance policy. Staff will take a first aid kit with them and there are additional first aid facilities on site. 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. Pupils are allowed to bring personal items such as mobile phones in order to keep in touch with parents. However, these items will be taken at their own risk.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L Roberts**  
**Head of Teaching & Learning**  
lara.roberts@redhouseschool.co.uk