

BISHOP



RAMSEY

Church of England School
Headteacher: Mr A J Wilcock MA (Cantab)

26th September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Sixth Form Trip to India

We are pleased to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to take part in a trip to India in April 2014. As a faculty we have a strong history of leading life changing trips for our students, most recently visiting Vietnam on three occasions where students were given the opportunity to interact with the people and witness first-hand the vibrant and stimulating culture of this fascinating country.

This year, we have taken the decision to visit India with a travel company which specialises in trips to the Indian subcontinent; <http://discoverindia.co.uk/>. A quick look at their website will show you why visiting India is such an amazing opportunity. The founder of the company has stated that:

"India is the perfect destination for a school trip. It has so much to teach us all but especially young people, with its diversity and power to broaden horizons. India's culture and economy are increasingly influential and students gain from a trip which offers a variety of personal challenges. It will excite and advantage young people in every way. Our programmes are designed to ensure that everyone has the chance to experience, connect and reflect. We are certain that students will gain educationally from their time in India and return better motivated to achieve and acquire a greater respect for other cultures."

A trip to India would help students studying many different subjects at A Level, as well as those wanting to broaden their knowledge and understanding of different cultures more generally. In AS History, students study the importance of India as part of the British Empire, and this is something that they would have the opportunity to learn more about. Students of Geography, RE and Photography, to name but a few, would also benefit immensely from the trip. Whilst the trip is completely voluntary we believe that this will be a valuable addition to your child's school experience. Accompanying this letter is a **provisional itinerary** of activities which students will be involved in should they decide to take part in the trip. It is likely that that 2-3 days will be cut from the middle section of the trip to allow students a clear week for revision on return.

The cost of the trip should be **approximately** £1,800 (the final price and the viability of the trip going ahead is dependent on minimum numbers being reached). The price includes all travel and transport during the trip, meals on a full board basis and experienced guides throughout. Students would need to bring money for souvenirs and tips. A visit to India also requires the purchase of a visa. To get one you must hold a valid passport with at least six



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months validity. Details of how to get one can be found on the website <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/>. This will not be organised by the school.

It is envisaged that the trip will depart on Friday 4th April, with students returning on Monday 14th April. Confirmation of this will be possible once final numbers are known and the best value flights secured.

On any trip of this nature safety is of course of prime importance. IDiscover has established and will maintain a system for managing safety which is based on detailed risk assessments and the operating procedures to minimise the likelihood and severity of the risks. They also have in place an emergency response procedure which includes 24/7 backup both in Delhi and in their UK office. Programmes are designed specifically for groups: schools; colleges; youth groups; families. Accommodation is chosen with care. Some of it is very basic but it is checked to make sure that it is suitably safe. It is chosen on the basis of safety, hygiene, location, comfort and suitability for school, college and youth groups. Each trip is accompanied by a Senior Guide who is appropriately qualified and experienced. The Senior Guide works with the Party Leader to manage the trip from arrival in the airport through to airport departure. On arrival in India the guides provide initial training to all students to ensure that everyone knows that they must follow best practice, and observe key rules to keep safe and healthy. This is followed by a short, written test to identify any group member who is unaware of the measures they need to take.

The trip will be accompanied by staff on a ratio of at least 1:10. Both Miss Jeremy and Miss Petford are experienced leaders of residential trips to Africa and Asia and have travelled extensively independently.

The local guides will help ensure students avoid the common, tourist tummy. Most people who follow the guides' advice avoid any illness, typically caused by dehydration or from not washing hands before eating. It is essential that every member of the group understands the health hazards in India and takes the necessary precautions. We provide health and safety training and insist that each member of the group takes a safety test before departing Delhi to minimise the possibility of getting ill.

It is anticipated that there will be a high level of interest in this trip but places are limited, therefore places will be allocated on a strict first-come first-served basis as payment is received. In order to finalise arrangements and secure your son/daughter's place please make an initial non-refundable deposit of £200 by Wednesday 9th October.

Unfortunately, if we do not receive sufficient interest we may not be able to go ahead with the trip and any monies received will be refunded.

Payment should be made via ParentPay using your credit or debit card. 'India' can be found under 'Services'. Payment should be received by Wednesday 9th October. Unfortunately we are unable to accept payments after this date.

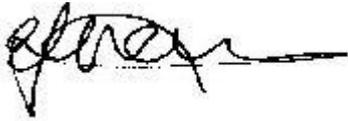
Should you have any concerns with respect to payment, please contact Mrs Ruttley on 01895 671050, alternatively email parentpay@bishopramseyschool.org.

It is the school's view that trips are a privilege reserved for students who meet the requirements of the school's Behaviour Policy. Students, who fail to meet these requirements, as decided by the Headteacher, may be refused permission to participate in a school trip. Furthermore, the Headteacher reserves the right to disallow a student from participating in a school trip if in their opinion, the health and safety of the student or other students or staff is at risk.

If student behaviour is unacceptable during the trip they will lose privileges. In exceptional circumstances students may be asked to leave the trip and fly home at their parents' expense.

Please complete the slip below and return to Miss Jeremy by Wednesday 9th October. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email at ejeremy.312@lqflmail.org or by phone on my direct line of 01895 671036. A meeting for students and parents led by the organising company will be held before Christmas. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions in relation to health and safety and required kit, amongst other things.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Jeremy', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Miss E Jeremy
Head of Humanities Department

SIXTH FORM TRIP TO INDIA – APRIL 2014

PLEASE RETURN TO MISS JEREMY BY WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Students Name: _____ Form: _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the above trip.

The required payment has been made via ParentPay receipt no. _____

I have checked my son/daughter's medical details on Parent Portal and confirm that the details are correct and up-to-date. I agree to inform you of any changes between now and the trip.

In addition to the above please indicate below any medical conditions which may affect your son/daughter taking part in activities. No responsibility can be taken for conditions about which we have not been notified.

I consent to my son/daughter being given a mild painkiller (eg. Paracetamol) If considered necessary by the Party Leader.

I give my permission for my son/daughter to receive medical treatment in an emergency situation if as parent/carer I cannot be contacted.

I understand that if my son/daughter's behaviour in school is not acceptable then he/she may be withdrawn from the trip and any monies paid to that date will not be refunded.

I have included a photocopy of my son/daughters passport with this reply slip

Signed: _____ Name: _____
(parent/carer)

Date: _____ Contact phone number: _____