From: Head of German and MFL Coordinator: Alexandra C v Widdern

4 May 2018

Dear Parent,

**re: Berlin Study Trip 2018**

Abingdon’s German department would like to invite your son to a study trip to Berlin from Friday 14 – Tuesday 18 December 2018.   The itinerary will support the cultural side of the Pre-U syllabus as well as giving an insight into the world of Germany past and present.

The itinerary includes an extensive walking tour of Berlin, a visit to the Berlin Underworld with a focus on escape attempt under the Berlin wall, a visit to the DDR Museum, the Stasiheadquarters, the wall memorial, the Brechthaus, and a visit to a traditional Christmas market. We also envisage taking the students to the theatre if a relevant and appropriate play is shown and we would be keen to organise a “Stammtisch”, an evening of meeting German youngsters of similar age to discuss and gain insights in to their opinions and current affairs.

The cost of the trip will be approximately £420, and payment for the trip should be made via the WisePay trip page, to which an invitation will be sent out separately upon completion of the consent form via the link below. Parents unable to make payment by this method should contact the trip leader to arrange an alternative means of payment. It will include the flight, insurance, accommodation, full board, transport and all entrance fees. We recommend around 50 Euros pocket money for the odd snack or souvenir.

Please note that by completing the attached (electronic) consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip. The School will proceed to make bookings and reservations immediately to procure the best possible deals. For this purpose, we will need a copy of your son’s passport uploaded. Please check it will be valid for the time of travel.

It is very important that you can make arrangements for your son to be picked up on the day of return. The aim is to return to the UK in the evening of Tuesday 18December and we will let you know the details in due course.

Boys who are non-EU/EEA / Schengen passport holders they MUST fly back to the UK with the school trip before onward flight connections are made. Flight connections may not be made from the host country or en route home as this causes major VISA problems.

Normal school rules will apply regarding behaviour, and boys will spend any free time in groups of 3.

Dress can be casual but needs to be extremely warm (hat, gloves, layers, warm winter coat) and comfortable (good walking boots or trainers).  On the day of travel, boys will need packed lunches, a drink and snacks. They will also be able to purchase snacks at the airport.

Please note that any chapel choir and boarding commitments take priority.

I hope this outlines the visit and our expectations. Here is the [link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSclDOLC03AAnBCBeaF1x3C9o-26i9erafqV_OsGkSMnBpvF-g/viewform?usp=sf_link) to the parental consent form for completion and return, due back to me no later than Friday 11 May.  Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the visit.

Yours sincerely



Alexandra Cardinal von Widdern

[Alexandra.widdern@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:Alexandra.widdern@abingdon.org.uk)

(Mobile in Germany will be: **07810 340272)**