



From Head of Classics: Chris Burnand

23 November 2018

Dear Parent,

Abingdon Classics Department  
**SICILY**

Friday 18 October – Thursday 24 October 2019

Sicily is the biggest and one of the most beautiful islands of the Mediterranean, so fertile that it was considered the birthplace of Demeter. This and its central location meant that it lay at the heart of conflicts between all the major ancient powers over the course of several centuries. The Greeks colonised it from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, and in the 5<sup>th</sup> century it was the site of a critical campaign in the Peloponnesian War, as the Athenian expedition to the island was destroyed. Later it became the scene of bitter conflict between the Romans and Carthaginians. Even after the final Roman victory it remained a vital strategic location during the civil wars at the end of the Republic.

The remains from all periods of this history are stunning: the unfinished temple and hill-top theatre of Segesta, the rich array of temples at Agrigento and Selinunte, the town and prison-quarries of Syracuse where the Athenian prisoners were held in appalling conditions, the theatre at the attractive city of Taormina, the 36,000 square feet of mosaics at Piazza Armerina, which are amongst the very finest in the world. But we will also have the chance to explore beyond the classical world, whether that be the golden mosaics of Monreale, hill-top medieval villages or majestic Etna.

We will be staying at three hotels; the tour price will include half-board, air fares, and all travel in Sicily and entry to the sites (but not the cost of lunches or of getting to the British airport from Abingdon: I will organise a coach for those who wish to use it).

The cost will be in the region of £850-900 (depending on the size of the final party). Payment for the trip should be made through WisePay. Note that by completing the consent form you are committing to the full cost of the trip, provided it goes ahead. If payment is not received through WisePay, the school reserves the right to add the charge to your next termly bill.

Once your son's place is secured, the school will endeavour to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals and the timing of payments is not necessarily a reflection of when the liability has been incurred.

<https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?ACT=nav&mID=313151>

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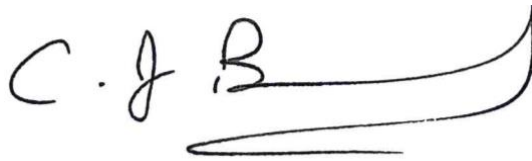
[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

(The trip can be found under Trip and Visit Payments section from the main WisePay site)

If your son would like to participate, please return the attached reply slip below and make payment of the deposit of £250 via the WisePay link above by Wednesday 12 December; the payment of the balance will be due during the Summer Term: please only pay the deposit at present, even though the full amount is given as an option (we can't remove that as an option from the system, and as noted above the final cost is not yet fixed: we hope it may well be below the £900 currently stated there). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. In the event that there is insufficient interest to support this study trip all payments would be returned.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ring me at school, at home (01865 341590), or contact me by email ([chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely



Chris Burnand – Head of Classics  
[chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk)

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To: Mr Burnand

I would like to book a place for the October 2019 trip to Sicily for my son and I agree to make a deposit payment of £250 via the WisePay by Wednesday 12 December 2018.

The surname of your son (exactly as it appears on his passport)

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ALL the first names of your son (as on passport)

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Date of birth .....

Nationality .....

(Please give all these details **exactly** as they appear on his passport - needed for flight-booking.)

Signed.....