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20 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Trip to New York City, October 2025

The art and design and technology department is organising a once-in-a-lifetime trip for Ridgeway students to New York City. The trip is aimed at students currently in year 7 and year 8. It will take place in October 2025 when the students will be in year 9 and year 10. The purpose of this letter is to give you some preliminary information about the trip and to invite you to a parents' information evening next week.

The five-day trip will include visits to some of New York's most famous attractions, museums and landmarks:

- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum and the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum
- Top of the Rock at the Rockefeller Centre (famous for its 360-degree view of the city)
- Central Park (for a tour), Times Square, Staten Island and the Statue of Liberty

We will be flying direct from the UK to New York and staying at the Marriot Hotel Manhattan/Central Park, which is just a ten-minute walk from Times Square and Broadway.

The overall cost of the trip is expected to be £1,550. This includes all transfers, flights, hotel accommodation with breakfast, all excursions and visits while in New York City, all evening meals and comprehensive travel insurance.

You will appreciate that this price may fluctuate slightly due to flight prices and exchange rates closer to the date of departure, but this will be managed sensitively. Your child will need their own passport and ESTA to enter the United States. We will of course support families with this process as needed.

We will require an initial deposit of £150 by 15 February 2024 and an additional £150 by the end of April 2024. We will then organise a payment schedule to help manage funds and spread the cost over the 18 months prior to departure. We intend to fundraise as much as possible with the trip group to help pay for hoodies, rucksacks, beanies etc.

I have arranged an information meeting for parents/carers in school at 5pm on Wednesday 29 November. At the meeting I will be able to give you more detailed information about the trip and answer any questions you may have. Please email me at the address below or contact the school office to indicate that you will be attending the meeting.

As I said above, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I very much look forward to being able to take a group of Ridgeway students to the best city in the world!

Yours faithfully

Mr G Jones **Leader of Technology**

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