

11 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Azores Trip: October 2023

We hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

The Geography Department is very excited to let you know that we are arranging an educational trip to the Azores. The trip will be offered to our current year 10 geography students and year 9 students who are interested in studying GCSE geography.

We are very aware that trips like this are expensive and that there are many financial pressures on families at the moment. With this in mind, we wanted to reassure you that this trip is not compulsory and that it will not affect GCSE outcomes at all. As educational trips such as these were not available during Covid, we wanted to provide this opportunity as part of our enhanced extracurricular offer.

Azores is a fantastic destination for all students. It is home to the best geographical landscapes in the world. A visit here will prove to be an exciting and enriching experience for all who attend. Not only will it help to broaden students' knowledge-base and provide a great case study for upcoming GCSE studies, but it will also develop students' independence, confidence, and resilience.

The trip will take place between Friday 20 and Tuesday 24 October 2023. If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please complete this [FORM](#) by Friday 21 October 2022. Places are limited to 30 and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Further details of the trip will be sent to those who express an interest.

The cost will be £990 which includes coach travel from the College to Heathrow Airport and back, insurance, flights, accommodation, meals whilst in the Azores, and all activities. We recommend you also budget £5 - £10 per day for spending money.

To secure a place on this trip, a non-refundable deposit of £150 should be paid via ParentPay by Friday 21 October 2022. ParentPay will open on at 10am on Thursday 13 October. The balance of £850 must be paid by 21 July 2023. This can be paid in one lump sum or in instalments such as below:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| 21 November | £110 |
| 21 January | £110 |
| 21 February | £110 |
| 21 March | £110 |
| 21 April | £110 |
| 21 May | £110 |
| 21 June | £110 |
| 21 July | £70 |

The total payment must be made by 21 July 2023. Unfortunately, should you need to cancel the trip for any reason, you will still be liable for the full cost, unless another student is able to take your child's place.

The trip will be organised by Discover the World Education, an award-winning school tour operator. Discover the World Education are the experts in arranging learning experiences for school groups and will be on hand to make the trip as memorable as possible for our students. DTWE are both ABTA and ATOL bonded and are a member of the School Travel Forum. This means that we have financial protection, and they have been externally verified for safety standards. They also provide a 24-hour emergency service for the College during the tour.

There will be a meeting for parents and students closer to the departure time when we will share any extra information and address any questions.

If you have any queries regarding this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at jpadgham@stcatherines.college

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Padgham
Teacher of Geography