



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## **School Trips and the Terrorist Threat**

Dear Parent / Carer

Over the next six weeks, the academy has a number of trips and activities taking place across the country and beyond. In the light of the recent terrorist incidents in both Manchester and London, there have been some parents who have contacted the academy to express their concerns, or raise questions about the trips that are taking place. Rather than having a number of different staff responding to a number of different parents, I thought that it would be better to contact all parents to ensure that every parent is receiving the same information. I will try to address the key issues that have been raised as concisely as possible.

### **Trip Cancellation**

Currently there are no plans to cancel any of the trips or visits that have been organised. Delta Trust have a specialist consultant for 'Learning Outside the Classroom' and he has been in close communication with the OEAP (Outdoor Education Advisory Panel) as well as the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office). The Government's current advice is that all school trips and visits should proceed as planned. As a parent, you are perfectly within your rights to choose to withdraw your child from any trip or activity, but you will be unable to get any refunds as the travel companies and their insurers will be guided by the Government advice.

Clearly, we will be monitoring the Government Advice, and should that advice change, we will contact you immediately to update you.

### **Risk Assessments**

Every school trip and activity that takes place is supported by a series of Risk Assessments. These are regularly reviewed in the light of experience. All trips and visits will now include additional Risk Assessments to deal with possible travel disruption, communication problems between visit staff and the academy, as well as increased demand for communication with parents.

### **Contingency Planning**

Each trip will be reviewing every aspect of its current itinerary, to make adaptations to arrangements to increase safety, reduce risk and to have contingency arrangements, should any visit be disrupted by unforeseen events. This will involve the reduction of any 'free/unsupervised' time that students would usually have had, and also additional information for all students to carry, should they get separated from the party for any reason. It is essential that your son pays attention to all briefing and information sharing. These contingency plans must be taken seriously, without spoiling the enjoyment of the visit.

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### **Your Child's Safety**

Following the events that have taken place in Manchester and London, it is natural that students, their parents and the staff at the academy will be feeling more apprehensive than usual about trips, but that is the purpose of terrorism, to try to destroy and disrupt our freedoms and way of life.

No-one can 'guarantee' the safety of anyone, 100%, as the events of both Manchester and London could just have easily been aimed at our 'City of Culture' Hull. That said, we are not being foolhardy or complacent about the safety of your child or our staff. What we will guarantee, is that we will be doing everything in our power to ensure that your son has an excellent, enjoyable and safe enrichment experience.

The staff have dedicated many hours to organisation of the events and activities that will be taking place during the enrichment week, and many of the students have been really excited about our first Enrichment Week, so I sincerely hope that it will proceed as planned and meet the high expectations of all concerned.

We will diligently monitor the Government Advice, and should this change in any way, we will of course inform you immediately.

I hope that I have been able to address the questions and concerns that have been raised, but if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

The best person to contact will be Mr Goodman, the Vice Principal, as he is the fully trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator, so will be best placed to offer up-to-date advice and guidance.

Yours sincerely

Karen Keaney  
Principal  
Hull Trinity House Academy