

30 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

The Geography Department is delighted to be able to offer a field visit to the island of Sicily in Italy during the 2027/28 academic year.

The trip will run from Wednesday 5 - Sunday 9 April 2028. The purpose of the trip is to allow students the chance to experience Geography in action which will aid their studies in both KS3 and GCSE Geography.

The students will depart from the academy via coach to a Northern Airport, from which they will fly to Sicily. Upon landing, they then begin a five-day adventure exploring Sicily's natural wonders. These include visiting the fantastic Mount Etna via cable car and 4x4 jeep bus, taking a boat trip to the islands of Vulcano and Lipari, visiting the town of Taormina and a trip to the coast to look at natural coastal landforms at the Strait of Messina and Tindari Lake. Your child will be provided with a full sample itinerary during the trip.

The trip will cost a total of £1200. This includes a £50 contingency for the cost of flights as it is so far in advance, we are booking the trip. If the £50 contingency is not needed once the flights are booked next year, then the total cost of the trip will be reduced, and any overpayments refunded.

To reserve a place on the trip a deposit of £150 will be required, although the trip can be secured with a lower £50 deposit. This will reserve a place on the trip, but the trip will not show as confirmed until the full deposit of £150 is paid. This will be due by Monday 31 August 2026.

A further instalment of £200 is then due by Monday 2 November 2026. The remaining balance is then due by Monday 3 January 2028 this can be paid in instalments.

If you wish for your child to attend the Sicily trip, payment will be via the Arbor Pay system and parents will need to 'tick' the consent button to giving permission for your child to participate as well as filling in the necessary medical information. The trip on Arbor will not have the correct trip dates on, this is due to Arbor only allowing listings for trips in the current academic year. This will mean a new trip listing will be generated in September, but all monies paid will be carried over.



Selection

We expect this trip to be oversubscribed, in this event we reserve the right to select students based on suitability for the trip. All places on the trip are subject to student attendance and behaviour.

Behaviour

Students on educational visits are representing the academy 24 hours a day and behaviour is of the utmost importance. At the academy we uphold our high behavioural expectations at all times. If there is a behavioural issue on the run up to a trip, we reserve the right to remove your child. Whilst on the visit if students do not follow our academy standards and expectations parents may be asked to come and collect their child from the trip, this will be at parents own expense.

Mobile Phones

At the academy we follow the guidance of the Department for Education with regards to the use of mobile phones on trips and visits. Educational visits are an extension of the school day and rules around mobile phones are still enforceable during these times. The academy has the rule of “**Never used, seen or heard**”, students must not use a mobile device, smart watch or electronic device including headphones during an educational visit, except under the specific direction of a member of staff.

The trip leader will designate structured times during the trip when students are able to have their phones out and use them. At all other times, students are prohibited from using or having their mobile phones on show. Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in Parents being contacted and sanctions being given under the academy behaviour policy including the removal of mobile devices if necessary.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J. Fawcett
Teacher of Geography

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