

SHUNG TAK CATHOLIC ENGLISH COLLEGE CIRCULAR #163 2018-2019

28th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Immersion Study Tour to England – Update on arrangements & Refund

Further to Circular #119, I would like to update you on the itinerary for the study tour to England. Please do note that there are some changes in the itinerary.

The airline tickets with Singapore Airlines have been issued. We will leave Hong Kong on Wednesday 30th January. Students will still need to attend classes on the morning of this day. They can go home for lunch and change but must be back to leave on the coach that has been booked for 3:00 p.m. Please note that we only arrive London on 31st January at 5:55 a.m. We will arrive back to Hong Kong on 15th February at 1:55 p.m.. Please pick up your child at the airport.

Also be advised that the insurance for this trip, as announced at the Briefing, is now in effect. You can familiarize yourselves with the terms of the policy by going to the school website for details.

For the London part of the trip, the group will be staying at Ibis Earls Court. The telephone number is (44)207/6100880

Here is the updated itinerary for our trip:

JAN/FEB Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
STUDENTS: Research items marked with a *			30 HK-IN FLIGHT Half day school @ STC Board coach at school @1515 HK-SIN SQ 865 @ 1850 - 2250 SIN-LHR SQ 322 @2345 – 0555	31 LONDON Arrive London @0555 Cambridge Grand Arcade Shopping Center - *PRIMARK <i>*Breakfast in Cambridge</i> University of Cambridge with graduate tour guides <i>Lunch @ University</i> <i>Conference Centre @1230</i> Free time: Cambridge Check-in Ibis Earl's Court <i>Dinner @ Mauricio Barca</i>	1 LONDON *Wellington Barracks, *Birdcage Walk, St James *Palace, Buckingham Palace *Changing of the Guards <i>Lunch @ Fishers</i> Chelsea Tour @1430 Covent Garden <i>*Dinner in Covent Garden Area</i> The Lion King @1930 @ Lyceum Theater	2 LONDON Westminster Abbey, Palace of Westminster, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Downing Street Thames River Cruise @1045 (45 min) - Tower of London, London Bridge, The Shard London Eye show @1245 <i>Lunch @ Honest Burgers</i> Imperial War Museum <i>Dinner @ hotel @ 1900</i>
3 LONDON Millennium Bridge, Tate Modern, Shakespeare Globe, St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square National Gallery Shopping Primark <i>*Lunch Tottenham Court</i> British Museum Carby Street, Piccadilly Circus, Chinatown <i>Dinner in Chinatown</i>	4 LONDON Natural History Museum Science Museum @1000 <i>Lunch near Natural History Museum area @1300</i> Leave London on North Dorset Travel @1530 for Bournemouth Arrival and meet host families @ 1800 <i>Dinner with host families</i>	5 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	6 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	7 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	8 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	9 BATH Depart Westover Retail Park @ 0800 Arrive Bath <i>Entrance to Roman Baths</i> <i>University of Bath</i> <i>Lunch in Bath</i> Depart Bath @1615 Arrive Westover Retail Park <i>Dinner with families</i>
10 BOURNEMOUTH Host Family Time	11 BOURNEMOUTH Meet at Westover Retail Park @0830 Salisbury Cathedral <i>Lunch @ Refectory</i> Stonehenge glimpse Warner Brother Studios: Making Of Harry Potter <i>Dinner @ Warner Brother Studio</i> Depart @1915 Arrive Bournemouth @2130	12 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	13 BOURNEMOUTH Immersion Programme @ Avonbourne for girls & Parkfield for boys	14 Leave Bournemouth @ 0530 on North Dorset Travel Arrive Heathrow 0800 <i>Breakfast @ Heathrow</i> LHR-HKG SQ 317 @1055	15 Arrive SIN @0750 Leave SINSQ856 @ 0955 Arrive Hong Kong @1355	

Information about the schools where your child would be immersed can be found on the school websites. Girls will study at Avonbourne College (<http://www.avonbourne.org/Avonbourne-College>); and boys will go to Parkfield School (<https://parkfieldschool.org/>) in Bournemouth. Your child will be expected to be in full uniform to attend school.

What is the name of the school that my child will attend?

We will be going to Avonbourne College or Parkfield School. Your child will be shadowing a student(s). We do suggest that a small souvenir(s) be taken as a token of appreciation to be given to the student(s) who your child will shadow.

Do my child need to take a school uniform?

Yes. Your child is expected to be in full Winter school uniform. S/He should also have his/her PE uniform for any school activities.

How can my child gain the most from this trip?

Your child will be expected to do presentations and answer questions. To benefit the most, students should do some research before the trip. During the trip, your child is expected to be more proactive by actively participating in all activities. An 'open and receptive' mind is also imperative to the gains your child will get from the trip. Active participation in the debriefing sessions and completing the assignment are important.

What is my child expected to prepare for this trip?

Your child will be expected to do some research. S/He is expected to look at a map, to make sure s/he knows where we are going. S/He is also expected to prepare to give some presentations on places we visit so having some prior background knowledge will make the experience a lot more fruitful and beneficial.

What is the weather like?

The temperature at that time of year in the UK is about 12°C but it can go up to 18°C. We advise that your child carries a light but very warm jacket. Having layers of clothing is always the best as places do tend to be warm indoors as most places are heated. Do pay attention to the weather report.

What should my child pack?

The Basics

- Lightweight clothing that can be layered
- 1 sweater or fleece jacket
- T-shirts, Pants and/or shorts
- Socks and comfortable walking shoes
- Warm jacket
- Pajamas/sleepwear
- Underwear
- Dresses and/or skirts
- Scarf or bandana and a hat

- Winter school uniform and PE uniform
- Stationery for school (notebook and a pen must be carried)

Would my child be able to wash his/her clothes?

Yes, your child will be allowed to do his/laundry at the home of the host family. Your child must do his/her own laundry. This would be part of the learning experience. We do encourage parents to get your child to use disposable underwear.

What can my child pack in his/her hand carry-on luggage?

Remember that if you take liquid it must be less than 100ml. Hand lotions and toothpaste should go into the luggage. A small amount, i.e. less than 100ml can be put into the hand luggage if necessary. We also suggest packing or carrying a jacket or something warm.

Would teachers keep the passport and money of my child?

The teachers will collect both the passport and the Hong Kong ID card of your child after we arrive to the London hotel for safe keeping. We will NOT help to keep the money of your child. S/He needs to be more responsible for his/her own money and any other personal items.

Is insurance included in the trip?

Yes, insurance is included in the trip. The policy has been posted on the school's website but if you have any concerns, please call Ms. Aubrey Kwan at 2476 4263.

Are meals provided?

All meals are included on this trip. However, please note that for the immersion time, students may get a packed lunch which could be a sandwich. It is important to understand that part of the experience is the food that people eat where they live, so it is important to learn to make this a part of the experience.

Although all meals are included on this trip, do note that teacher chaperones would not arrange for all meals to be eaten together as a big group. Your child will also be given the opportunity to buy his/her own meals. The money for those meals would be given to your child by the chaperones. We hope that you can remind your child this is not a luxury tour but a study tour and meals and the purchase of them are parts of the learning experience.

Can my child take medication with them?

If your child is taking any medication, please also let us know. Make sure all medication is properly labelled.

Can I carry food?

Although food is allowed, it must be declared so we strongly suggest you do not pack any food items. Part of the experience is to shop in the country of visit and try the food of that area.

How much money should my child carry?

Your child does not need to pay for any meals. However, we understand that sometimes they may want to buy a snack or something they like. They are free to do so. You can give a small allowance for this purpose. Your child may also want to pick up a few souvenirs from their trip which can be expensive if they decide to buy things like hoodies from the university and from Warner Brothers. But for simple souvenirs and other incidentals, **we suggest about £200.**

Can my child carry his/her mobile phone or other electronic gadgets?

Yes, your child can carry his/her phone as s/he would want to take pictures to record the trip. However the school is not responsible for any loss of any items.

What about SIM cards?

We will NOT help your child to purchase any SIM cards in the UK. There are some companies in Hong Kong that sell SIM cards for use in Europe.

If I need to contact my child in case of emergency, what should I do?

There will be free Wi-Fi at the hotel so if you are connected with your child on social media, you can reach him/her through that. We however strongly discourage you to call your child during the day when s/he is at school or doing an activity. Please note that there is a time difference.

Any other advice?

Yes, we advise your child carries his/her water bottle so that they can buy a big bottle of water if they do not want to drink tap water, to share among them as this is more economical than buying a smaller bottle of water.

You have paid \$23,800 for this trip to us but we are now happy to inform you that we are able to run this school trip at a lower price as most arrangements have been taken care of by our school staff. The school will also pay for the expenses of the teacher chaperones. You will receive a refund of **about** \$2,500. The exact refund amount will be announced after the check by the school accountant. We will refund this to you through your child in the form of a cheque after we return in the very near future. Your child will be informed to collect the cheque from the General Office of our school.

Thank you for your support of this trip and we very much hope that your child will be able to make the most of the experience that you have made possible for him/her. Please note that we will also put up the UK phone numbers of the chaperones on our school website after their arrival to the UK.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Aubrey Kwan or Ms. Brenda Lee at 2476 4263.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Cecilia Tang Sui Sim
Principal

REPLY SLIP

SHUNG TAK CATHOLIC ENGLISH COLLEGE CIRCULAR #163 2018-2019

Dear Principal,

Re: Immersion Study Tour to England– Update on arrangements & Refund

I have read and understand the contents of this circular.

- I understand that a cheque would be refunded to me by the General Office of the school. The exact amount would be finalized by the school accountant. _____
Signature please

- I understand that my child must attend all briefing sessions and do research prior to the study tour. _____
Signature please

Name of Student: _____

Class & Class No.: _____()

Signature of Parent: _____

Name of Parent: _____

Emergency Contact No. of Parent: _____

*** This reply slip must be submitted to **Ms. Amor Menor or Ms. Aubrey Kwan** directly. ***