



Mayfield Grammar School Gravesend

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Headteacher: Mrs E Wilson B.A. (Hons)



14 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: East Coast Tour of USA in July 2025 to
include Boston, Rhode Island, New York and Washington DC**

We are planning a trip for July 2025 for the East Coast of USA for our students in Years 7 to 11, they will therefore be in Years 9 to 13 on departure. We have organised this trip with a chance to experience the very different and iconic cities of America and visit the key highlights in each location to include Boston, New York, and Washington, with a trip to Rhode Island for contrast and a chance to visit the beach and boardwalk. The itinerary is still being developed as it is subject to availability and student numbers. We are proposing an 8–9-day tour. We should be able to confirm the final itinerary and costs in September 2024, once numbers and the final itinerary are confirmed. Indicative costings are provided overleaf.

The itinerary we are developing includes the following:

Day 1 Flight to Boston.

Day 2 A full day in Boston. In the morning you will follow the Freedom Trail, followed by a visit to Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower Landing site where the first English Pilgrims arrived in 1620 to set up the first colony in New England. There will be a chance for some shopping for souvenirs. Lunchtime at Quincy Market at Faneuil Hall <https://faneuilhallmarketplace.com/>
And an Evening Ghost Train tour <https://www.ghostsandgravestones.com/boston>

Day 3 Travel to Rhode Island followed by a mid-morning break at Bowens Wharf for some browsing and shopping, with an afternoon walk along the cliffs (or harbour) both 2 miles. Late afternoon a visit to Mini Golf and overnight in Newport Rhode Island.

Day 4 Travel to New York, check into the new accommodation before an afternoon visit to the Edge – A new viewing platform in New York City.

Later you will get an opportunity to explore New York virtually with a ride on RiseNY <https://www.riseny.co/> followed by a walking tour beginning in the park in the sky Highline <https://www.thehighline.org/> followed by a trip to Brooklyn Bridge or visit Central Park if time permits.

Day 5 Morning: Board a ferry to visit the iconic symbol of New York, the Statue of Liberty followed in the afternoon with a visit to Coney Island's funfair rollercoasters and beach. This evening you will dine at John's Pizzeria, one of New York's best pizzerias located in a renovated church based in Time Square, before enjoying a Broadway Show in the evening.

Day 6 Travel to Washington, afternoon visits to the famous Lincoln Memorial, White House, and Washington Monuments which are all "must see" when visiting Washington, America's home of government.

Day 7 This morning there will be a guided tour of the United States Capitol Building and the seat of American legislature. You begin in Emancipation Hall where you learn about its burning by British troops in the 1812 War, and the construction of the Rotunda which took place during the Civil War. You then walk through the tunnel which connects the Capitol to the Library of Congress and which houses Thomas Jefferson's Private Library. This is an unmissable experience in DC! PM activity to be decided.

This evening's destination is either an American football match at DC United or a Baseball match which is subject to fixture schedules in July 2025

Day 8 This day is still in development but will include a morning activity which may include the popular International Spy Museum which many student groups enjoy. This will be coupled with an out of city experience at either the Luray Caverns or the Great Falls National Park on Potomac River. Before making our way to the airport for the flight back to the UK.

<https://luraycaverns.com/>

[Maps - Great Falls Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/grofo/)

Day 9 Arrive home.

The cost of the trip is estimated at £3,110 to cover all travel in UK and USA, accommodation, entrance fees, travel guide, breakfast, evening meals and trip insurance. The cost of flights and accommodation, final numbers etc cannot be confirmed this far in advance. It is likely we will be able to confirm the full cost and itinerary in September 2024. Please note the cost of an ESTA or visa (if required), lunch and drinks (other than water) with meals are not included.

We have provided a payment schedule at the end of the letter to assist with incremental payments towards the cost of the trip.

We hope you will agree the trip has a full and varied itinerary travelling along the East Coast of USA stopping to explore some of the most important and influential cities of America. If you wish to secure a place for your daughter, please complete the reply slip attached and make a deposit payment of £100 by Wednesday 31 January. Please note any deposit or subsequent monies paid towards the trip will be subject to cancellation terms and conditions once the trip is confirmed with Kipling Tours. These will be outlined to you once the trip is confirmed as viable.

If you require any further information regarding the proposed tour, please contact my colleague Mrs Ferrara via email or phone. Contact details are listed below.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs E Wilson
Headteacher

Enc. Reply slip

Email: ferraraa@mgsg.kent.sch.uk or
Tel: 01474 643374

Proposed payment plan:

**** Please note you deposit becomes non-refundable once the trip is confirmed as viable and the tour operators' terms and conditions including cancellation details will be confirmed to you at this time. Please note you may not get all the money you have paid returned to you should you later decide to cancel your daughter off the trip.**

Payment	Due date	Amount
1 st (**deposit)	31 January 2024	£100
2nd	31 March 2024	£400
3rd	31 May 2024	£500
4th	31 July 2024	£400
5th	30 Sept 2024	£400
6th	30 Nov 2024	£400
7th	31 Jan 2025	£500
8th	31 Mar 2025	£410
*This amount to be confirmed pending final itinerary and numbers	TOTAL	*£3,110

FAO: AF/EW

Reply slip:

RE: 9 Day East Coast Tour of USA in July 2025, please return to the Finance Office by 31 January 2024

I/we confirm we give permission for our daughter to attend the East Coast Tour of USA due to depart in July 2025.

Student's Name: Form:

Please find a deposit of £100 enclosed (cash or cheque made payable to MGSG)

I have made a deposit payment online.

Parental signature: Date:

Parental name (printed):

EW/af