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Headteacher: Mr M Warren

14th September, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After another successful Russia trip in October 2017, the Russian Department would like to offer your daughter another chance to take part in a **6-day cultural trip** to Russia which will visit both **Moscow and St Petersburg**, the country's current and former capital. This twin-city trip offers students a cultural and historical tour, focusing on the historical sites and artistic riches of this beautiful country. We will see elements of Russia's imperial past, the revolutionary period, the Soviet era and memorials to Russia's involvement in the Second World War. We also aim to visit a school, this visit in particular has proven very successful in the past.

The trip is *open to all students* however priority will be given to those who have opted for Russian. It will be a fabulous opportunity to hear the language in action whilst also bringing history and culture to life and offering pupils an insight into a country that our young people are unlikely to visit independently. As part of the tour's evening entertainment programme we try to visit the Russian circus, ballet and a cultural show all of which will be confirmed as soon as performance schedules for autumn 2019 are available.

At this stage the proposed dates are **Thursday 24th to Tuesday 29th October 2019**. This includes two days of school term-time and four days of October half-term 2019. Flights for October 2019 are not currently on sale but any date changes will be minimal and will be reconfirmed as soon as possible.

The cost of the trip is estimated at £1,660 for a group of 30 students travelling. This figure would reduce if more than 30 pupils wanted to take part. This figure includes all accommodation costs, entrance fees, breakfast and dinner, private coach hire in Russia, overnight sleeper-train between Moscow and St Petersburg, evening entertainment and the Russian visa and administration fee. This comprises a voluntary contribution towards travel and visa, tuition and a charge for board and lodgings. The *only additional cost* would be money for souvenirs and lunches (approximately £7-10 per day).

Within this budget I have allowed for flights at the top end of predicted prices, however the final price of the trip also depends on the final cost of air fares and any change in the cost of obtaining a visa. Please be aware that if insufficient voluntary contributions are received the trip may not go ahead. In this instance we *will* return your deposit. We hope that the proposed instalment system will allow families to spread the financial burden and enable more students to enjoy this great opportunity.

To guarantee a place on the trip we would need a non-refundable deposit of £250 by October 3rd, 2018. We then request a monthly instalment of £150 from November 2018 until September 2019 (excluding December) with your choice of a month in which would prefer to pay £60. The exact figure and payment schedule will be confirmed once we have collected all the deposits at the start of October.

Please confirm your interest by completing the confirmation of interest form and returning it to Mrs Eyre with £250 deposit by **Wednesday 3rd October 2018**.

There are photo displays of the last trip in room 18 and in the area outside room 30 and I would be happy to answer any questions the girls might have about the trip. Those studying Russian will be shown a video of the



trip in class. If you would like your daughter to watch it at school and she doesn't study Russian then please encourage her to come and ask me.

The World Cup in Russia this summer was a great success, and first time visitors to the country thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We also look forward to offering our students this great experience again.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs E Willett
Head of Russian

Comments from previous trip participants:

“The Russian trip was brilliant. It's a chance to not only practise speaking Russian with native speakers but also to hear the language being spoken by everyone around you which is not a likely opportunity in England. This really improves your confidence with the language and we all learnt a lot of phrases we wouldn't otherwise have known. The huge number of places we visited made the days very busy but definitely worth it. Peter and Paul's Fortress on Zaichy Island was in my opinion the most interesting and my favourite place we went. If you go, try all the food even if you don't think you'll like it. You'll be surprised!”

“The Russian trip was without a doubt one of the best school trips I have ever been on and was worth every penny! I saw so much in the space of just a few days. The Russian ballet was especially amazing and I felt so privileged watching it. Each and every building we visited was incredibly beautiful. So many of us were overwhelmed by the grand styles and the golden artwork. I definitely plan to go to Russia again! My Russian really did improve when we returned; I was more confident and had a new look on the A level. Since then I have enjoyed the lessons even more.”

School Trip to Russia- October 2019

Please complete and return the slip below to **Mrs Eyre at the main school office** by
Wednesday 3rd October

STUDENT'S FULL NAME: Form:

We would like our daughter to take part in the school trip to Russia in October 2019 and will make a deposit of £250 either as an online payment on wise pay/cash/cheque made payable to Presdales School (please delete as necessary) on or before Wednesday 3rd October.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: Date: