

11th December 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

Update for Florida [NASA] Physics Trip ~ 28th March – 1st April 2021

Trip Lead: Mr K Pancholi (Teacher of Physics – kpancholi@johnferneley.org)

I would like to begin by thanking you for your patience in relation to the planned international trip to NASA Florida (America), due to fly-out on 28th March 2021. I appreciate that correspondence has been limited since our last letter sent to you in October, but it is crucial we review our options in detail and take the best course of action for all parties involved, given the current travel challenges and restrictions.

Unfortunately, it is increasingly apparent that the international trip will not be feasible to fly in March 2021. Please see the latest guidance from the government below, for all school educational trips:

We continue to advise against overseas educational visits. This advice remains under review. In February 2021, the Government will review the possibility of changing advice on domestic residential education visits to resume from Easter 2021, if the scientific evidence allows.

After careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that, in the current COVID-19 situation, there are too many uncertainties relating to flights, accommodation and, above all, the safety of students and staff for the trip to go ahead in March 2021. Staff would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure students' welfare should adult supervisors or students be required to self-isolate or become unwell.

Therefore, **the trip will now take place in April 2022**, when, hopefully, the situation will be more settled and safe for travelling abroad. All the payments you have made so far towards the trip will be carried forward to the trip in 2022. For this trip to go ahead in 2022, **you must continue to make payments**. A revised payment plan for the remaining monies will be circulated to you in the new year.

If you would like to cancel your child's place on the trip for April 2022, please inform myself immediately (email below) so we can look to refill spaces, if needed. Those who cancel with us, will receive a full refund, as soon as possible in the new year.

I appreciate that your child will be disappointed by this decision, but it is essential to put the safety of students and staff first.

Yours sincerely

Kalpesh Pancholi

Teacher of Physics

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