



30th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 7 Visit to Durham Cathedral

We are pleased to tell you that we have arranged a day visit to Durham Cathedral for all of our Year Sevens. This is so they can come to know and understand this magnificent building, and learn a little more about its construction, history, setting, art and symbolism. We hope that this will enhance their understanding when we return in December for our school carol service. The day will include a visit to the Durham Cathedral Museum, including the opportunity to see the Treasures of St Cuthbert.

We have organised the visits on three days.

1. Pupils will go in form groups:
7J, 7C, and 7S on WEDNESDAY 5th October;
7H, 7A, and 7M on THURSDAY 6th October;
7D, 7U, and 7R on FRIDAY 7th October.
2. They will register in the Activity Studio at 0830, and then we will walk to Palace Green.
3. Once there, they will participate in a carousel of activities run by Art, History and Geography.
4. **Students will need to bring a packed lunch, which they will have to carry with them all day. Please note that we will be eating in the Cloisters. Children entitled to a free school meal will be given a packed lunch at school to carry.**
5. Full school uniform must be worn. It would be sensible to wear a school jumper or cardigan (grey and v-necked) as it may well be cold.
6. Children should wear coats, both to keep them warm while walking and because some activities will take place outside. Please note that hoodies are not suitable for this purpose. Shoes should be appropriate for walking this distance and also comply with the school uniform policy.
7. They need to have a pen and a pencil with them.
8. There is no need for them to bring any spending money.
9. We will walk back to school in time for them to catch the normal school buses or be dismissed from school. Owing to the logistics of the trip, we regret that children may not be dismissed from the cathedral or route back.

We hope that you agree that our young people should be made familiar with the World Heritage Site, and that the chance to get to know Britain's Favourite Building is a valuable one! We are very pleased to have been able to return to this visit after a two-year gap.

As you will appreciate, this trip is not without cost; the cathedral charges per pupil for educational visits. The current cost of living crisis is having an impact upon many of our families and also the school. We feel that it is very important to offer cultural opportunities but have very limited funds to pay for such visits. We hope that you are still able to provide the usual voluntary contribution of **£2.50** to help cover the cost of the visit and some parents and carers have asked if they can pay more to cover the cost of another student whose family might be facing financial hardship and unable to make a voluntary contribution. We would greatly appreciate any support of that nature, as it will help all students in year to access a wonderful cultural opportunity.

We are asking parents to make their voluntary contribution by using ParentPay. You will be able to find the trip on ParentPay under 'other payment items' as the 'Cathedral Trip'. If you do not have a ParentPay account and would like to set up an account or if you experience any issues whilst making your voluntary contribution, can you please contact Clare Mathieson, Whole School Administrator on the following email school@durhamjohnston.org.uk.

If you have any concerns about any of these arrangements, please contact Miss McKenzie in the History department or through the school email address.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. O'Sullivan
Headteacher



Headteacher: A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Director of Resources: H Charlton BA, MBA

Deputy Heads:
J Bell BSc, MA
R McFadden MEng
M J Wright BA

Assistant Heads:
A Lennon BA
S A F McArdle BSc
N Weaver BA

