



# Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Geography Department is delighted to offer an exciting opportunity for our current Year 9 students to visit Sicily in October 2027.

Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean, is a truly unique and fascinating destination where natural beauty and powerful geological forces come together. Located just off the south coast of Italy, it is home to dramatic landscapes shaped by volcanic activity over thousands of years. Dominated by Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, Sicily provides an exceptional opportunity for students to experience geography in action.

This unforgettable educational visit will include guided experiences such as a visit to Mount Etna and the spectacular Alcantara Gorge, formed by ancient lava flows and river erosion. These locations provide a unique "living classroom," where students can see first-hand the processes they study in lessons. Not only will the trip broaden students' knowledge base and provide an excellent case study for GCSE Geography, it will also help to develop independence, confidence, and resilience.

The trip will take place from **Friday 15th October 2027 to Tuesday 20th October 2027** (5 days/4 nights) and will cost approximately **£1100**, depending on flight prices. Any overpayment will be refunded. We recommend budgeting an additional £15–£20 per day for spending money.

The cost of the trip includes:

- Group travel insurance
- Return flights from Manchester, including airport transfers and 10kg cabin luggage
- Overseas transfers
- 5 days / 4 nights full-board accommodation (all meals provided)
- All activities and excursions, with professional local tour guides (see attached provisional itinerary)

The trip will be organised by Discover the World Education, an award-winning school tour operator. They specialise in educational experiences for school groups and will ensure the trip is both safe and memorable. Discover the World Education is ABTA and ATOL bonded and a member of the School Travel Forum, meaning the trip is financially protected and meets externally verified safety standards. They also provide a 24-hour emergency service while on tour.

There are currently **30 places** available, and as numbers are limited, places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis once **the trip goes live on Scopay on Monday 8th June**. A **£100 deposit** is required to secure your child's place. Following this, a monthly payment plan will be set up. We are sharing this information in advance to support families in planning and budgeting.

The total cost includes a backpack and a 10kg cabin bag. If you would prefer your child to have an additional large suitcase to be checked in at the airport (hold luggage), this can be added for an **additional £85**. To upgrade, please return the slip attached as soon as possible and pay the increased deposit of £185 (£100 deposit + £85 luggage fee). Please note that availability for hold luggage is dependent on the airline and will need to be secured promptly.

We believe this trip will be a truly enriching and memorable experience for our students, combining academic learning with adventure and personal development

If you have any questions at this point, please do not hesitate to get in touch at: [b.birkinhead@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:b.birkinhead@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Birkinhead (Teacher of Geography)

Please see the provisional schedule below (this may change slightly)

Day 1	Fly to Catania Airport, arrive in the evening and Transfer to accommodation
Day 2	Breakfast at accommodation – Mount Etna including cable car and 4WD bus to summit (with Alpine guide on summit walk) – Packed lunch included – Alcantara River Park including Alcantara Gorge (with park ranger) – Dinner at accommodation (with full day Tour Manager)
Day 3	Breakfast at accommodation – Day trip by ferry to the Aeolian islands of Vulcano and Lipari (with tour manager) – Vulcano hike to Gran Cratere (with volcano trek guide) – Packed lunch included – Lipari town and castello walking tour – Return ferry – Dinner at accommodation (with full day Tour Manager)
Day 4	Breakfast at accommodation – Walking tour of Taormina including Greek amphitheatre (with archaeological guide) – Isola Bella and Mazzarò bay – Pizza making activity + lunch – Transfer back to accommodation +dinner (with full day Tour Manager)
Day 5	Breakfast at accommodation – beach trip - Transfer to Catania Airport for flight home

I would like to pay for an additional large suitcase to be checked in at the airport and I have paid an additional £85 as part of the deposit to cover this cost.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_