



Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Ms Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA

March 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

2019 Cultural Exchange with Ursuline Academy Dallas

Here at the Ursuline we are extremely proud to be part of a global network of Ursuline Schools; a sisterhood of staff, students and alumnae with whom we share our Catholic faith and the values set out by Angela Merici. This Community works together to support the learning and achievement of Ursuline Students across the world. Our annual exchange with the staff and students of Dallas Academy is a unique opportunity for students to benefit from this powerful partnership. Students who have taken part in this exchange in the past have found it a hugely enriching and confidence building experience, meeting students and staff, learning together, living with a Texan family and hosting a Texan student.

The trip is open to students currently in Years 9 and 10 and I am writing to invite your daughter to apply to take part in this exchange. Unfortunately, numbers are limited to 14 students. Details of the application process are below.

Proposed dates for 2019 (subject to final confirmation)

- Students from Dallas Academy hosted by UHS students: Tuesday 18th June – Thursday 27th June 2019
- UHS students to Ursuline Academy Dallas: Thursday 17th October – Saturday 26th October 2019 (an overnight flight, arriving back on Sunday 27th)

Student Application

To be considered, your daughter's effort in school work and behaviour must be excellent, she must also write a word processed application letter (one A4 side maximum) which includes the following points

- A description of her personality and interests
- Her reasons for applying to take part in the exchange and why she should be selected
- What she would bring to the exchange to benefit others
- A description of her Serviam commitment and activities this year.

This application should be completed and sent to me by 4pm on Thursday 21st March 2019 via email:

debra.beale@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

**** Please note that the majority of people travelling to America will require an electronic visa (an ESTA) and that it is *your* responsibility to organise your daughter's visa requirements in good time for the trip. You will also need to ensure that your daughter's passport has enough 'time' left on it – our airline company will not accept a passport which has less than 6 months left on (i.e. an expiry of March 2020 or later is needed for the trip). If your daughter requires a new passport for the trip please organise this as soon as possible; all passport details must be with our airline by Monday 1st July 2019, if you cannot provide passport details by this time than an extra fee will be payable by yourselves.****

Crescent Road
Wimbledon
London SW20 8HA

Tel: 020 8255 2688
Fax: 020 8255 2687
Visitors' Entrance: **The Downs**

Website: www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
Email: enquiries@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
Twitter: @UrsulineHighSch



Costs and other key arrangements

The provisional cost is £1,140 subject to both flight costs and full uptake (14 students) of the trip. The exchange includes:

- Travelling to/from school by mini-bus to/from Heathrow airport
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Cultural activities and trips in Dallas for example to the JFK museum, school and Serviam activities
- Some of the cultural activities that the Dallas girls undertake whilst in the UK e.g. trips in London
- All meals and accommodation with Dallas families whose daughters attend the Ursuline Academy
- All meals in school and during cultural activities.
- The trip does not include pocket money and we recommend a maximum of £300 (approximately \$400) per student.
- In June 2019 the students from Dallas Academy will be visiting us, and you will be asked to host one of them. This is a strong element of the exchange, but if hosting is an issue, please indicate so on your reply slip. The guest students need not to have a spare room, they may share a room with another girl in your family, but they must have their own bed.

To confirm your interest and permission:

Please return the reply slip below to myself, along with your daughter's application form.

If your daughter is been selected for the trip, you will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £250 by Friday 29th March. You are required to pay for this trip via your ParentPay account.

If you have forgotten your ParentPay login, please visit their website (www.parentpay.com) and click on "Forgotten password" in the Account login section. Should this cause you any difficulty, please contact Salvina Barcellona salvina.barcellona@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk in the Finance office who will be able to assist you with this.

Please note that this is a voluntary trip. Therefore, if insufficient funds are raised, then the trip may have to be cancelled or the price amended.

The remaining payments will need to be made by the following dates:

£300 by Monday 29th April 2019

£300 by Monday 3rd June 2019

£290 by Monday 8th July 2019

If your daughter is selected to take part in this exchange, I will send an email to invite you to an information meeting in May.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries,

Yours sincerely

Debra Beale

Head of Humanities

debra.beale@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Please return to Miss Beale by Friday 22nd March in room U1

Permission slip for Dallas Exchange 2019

I confirm I would like my daughter to take part in the 2019 Dallas Exchange.

One my daughter has been selected for the trip, I will pay a non-refundable deposit of £250 by Friday 29th March. I understand that if I do not meet the deposit deadline then my daughter's place may be offered to another student.

Name of Daughter: _____ Form: _____

Parent contact email: _____

Contact number: _____

We are able to host a student in June Yes / No

My daughter has a valid EU passport Yes / No

My daughter has a valid non-EU passport Yes / No State country of issue: _____

Expiry date of passport _____

Details of any medical needs/considerations: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

