



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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Thursday 15th December, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

GCSE History Trip to Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau, Thursday 19– Sunday 22 January, 2017: Information Evening and Outline Itinerary

Information Evening

Many thanks for supporting your child or ward's participation in the History Department's forthcoming trip to Krakow, Poland. I would like to invite parents and guardians to an information evening at **6:30pm on Thursday 12th January** in the Hall at school.

As you may remember from the original trip letter, the centrepiece of the trip is a daylong tour of Auschwitz, a concentration camp and death camp complex used by Germany's Nazi regime during the Holocaust. The evening will therefore be both a chance to find out all the practical information regarding the trip but also to learn more about how best to prepare and support pupil participants for what is often an emotive and challenging, as well as an extremely worthwhile, visit. There will also be an opportunity to meet some of the staff accompanying the trip, for us to outline our expectations of pupils during the visit and to answer any further questions you may have. **Please complete and have your child or ward return the attached permission slip to indicate whether you are able to attend.**

Preparatory Film

To help prepare pupils for the trip, complement the information evening and possibly simplify arrangements for parents/guardians on the evening, the History Department is inviting all pupil participants to a viewing of the Oscar-winning 2015 film *Son of Saul* at school between the end of the school day and the information evening, which pupils are encouraged to attend alongside their parents/guardians.

It is a powerful film that should help prepare the pupils for their visit. The intended venue for the film is A4 in the art block and it will run from 4:15-6:15pm. Pupils signing up to attend will be expected to watch the film throughout. They are welcome to bring food to sustain themselves as long the room is left in excellent condition. They will be supervised by staff throughout. **Please indicate on the attached permission if your child or ward is able to attend.**

Outline itinerary:

A full itinerary, with practical advice on what to wear and bring, will be issued nearer the time but I thought you might value more detail now on the logistics of the trip and planned departure and return times.

We will meet in the school coach park on Thursday 19th January at 6am and return at approximately 3am on Monday 23rd January. Unfortunately, seat availability meant that it was not possible to fly from northern airports and I apologise for the antisocial drop-off and pick-up times. The school understands the implications a late return might have for pupil attendance on the following day and that this might be

compounded by the time required to return home from school. Ideally, pupils will return to school for afternoon lessons on Monday 23 January and this can be discussed further at the information evening.

For both outward and return flights, we will be flying with British Airways from London Heathrow. Students will each be allowed the normal BA allowance of hand luggage and checked luggage, although it is essential that they are personally able to carry whatever they bring over reasonable distances.

For families and pupils keen to learn more in the meantime about the sites due to be visited on the trip, I can recommend watching the first or any episodes from the excellent BBC documentary series, *Auschwitz: The Nazis and the 'Final Solution'*. It is available on DVD and also on Netflix and other streaming sites, although sometimes under its American title: *Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State*.

If you have any immediate questions regarding the trip prior to the information evening, please do not hesitate to contact me at school, preferably via the email address below.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the information evening in January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Bruce
History Department

bruced@ripongrammar.co.uk



Please cut off and return to Room 16 at break or directly to Mr Bruce before Friday 6th January

Auschwitz Trip Information Evening

I can/cannot (delete as appropriate) attend the information evening on Thursday 12th January at 6:30pm in the school hall.

My child or ward can/cannot (delete as appropriate) attend the screening of the film *Son of Saul* between 4:15 and 6:15pm on the same day.

Name of son/daughter: _____ Form: _____

Signature: _____

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

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