



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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Tuesday 9th January 2018

RE: History Trip to Krakow and Auschwitz, Thurs 19th – Sunday 22nd Jan, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for allowing your son or daughter to take part in the History Department's trip to Krakow. As we approach departure, I thought it might be useful to provide further information to help students considering what to bring.

- **Food:** As mentioned in the initial letter describing the trip, all breakfasts and evening meals whilst we are in Poland will be provided as part of the trip cost. Students will therefore only need enough money to pay for their own meals whilst travelling and for inexpensive lunches in Krakow itself. **Students need to make me aware of any dietary or allergy-related requirements not already outlined on their returned medical form as soon as possible.**
- **Spending money:** Aside from that required to pay for food whilst travelling and during the two full days we are in Krakow, there will be no requirement to spend money whilst in Krakow as all excursions will be covered. There will, however, be some opportunities to purchase mementoes from the sites we are visiting and some limited time to explore shops in Krakow's famous "Old Town". Students are strongly advised to exchange pounds for Polish Zloty before the trip itself, with the Post Office generally offering far better exchange rates than those available from airport kiosks and no guaranteed time or place in our itinerary to exchange currency. I would estimate the equivalent of £40 to £50 spending money should be sufficient, given Poland generally lower cost of living.
- **Luggage:** Our flight is with Ryanair and includes 10kg hand luggage according to the requirements laid out on their website, plus one smaller bag for example handbag or small ruck sack. Please label all luggage clearly with your name and address in case of loss, and ensure **that students alone can carry all of their luggage over long distances** without help, as we will be walking a few hundred metres from the nearest coach park to our hotel.
- **Clothing:** Poland has experienced cold temperatures in recent weeks (reaching -5C just a few days ago – the average temperature is 1C in January). **It is therefore essential that students prepare for cold (and potentially wet) weather**, anticipating long periods outside exploring largely open-air historical sites. A warm hat, multiple clothing layers, gloves and waterproof coat is crucial, as is sensible footwear with good tread. **Towels will be provided by the hotel.**

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

Address: Clotherholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

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- **Essential documentation:** All students should hand their passport to a member of staff **upon boarding the coach** to Leeds Bradford Airport. Students will then be responsible for carrying their passports until we arrive in Poland when they will be collected in and held in the hotel safe. Students should ensure they carry their own European health Insurance Card on their person throughout the trip

Basic Itinerary:

Thursday 18 January	
05:30 hrs	Meet at the school coach park to load luggage ready for departure. Please be prompt to avoid the group's delay.
07:30 hrs	Check in at Leeds Bradford Airport, Main Terminal for RYANAIR flight number FR 2332 – Flight departs 09:30 hrs.
13:00 hrs (local time)	Scheduled to arrive at John Paul II Balice International Airport, Krakow. The group will then travel to the hostel by private coach transfer
14:30 hrs	Estimated time of arrival at Hotel Alexander II, where the group will be staying for the next three nights with half board accommodation. Towels will be provided by the hotel.
Afternoon /Evening	Settle in to hotel and walk the short distance into Krakow for an orientation tour. Evening meal served at the hotel.
Friday 19 January	
Morning	After a continental breakfast in the hotel there will be a guided walking tour of Krakow's historic centre led by a local expert. Sites will include the wartime ghetto of Podgorze and Schindler's Factory (external view only), the Old Town Square, University District, Wawel Hill, and Kazimierz, the former Jewish Quarter.
Afternoon	Students free to buy lunch at one of the authentic Polish eateries followed by visit to the Schindler Factory Museum.
Evening	A three course evening meal accompanied by traditional live music in a Jewish restaurant in Krakow's historic Jewish quarter.
Saturday 20 January	
Morning	Depart hotel early (06:45am) to travel to Auschwitz by coach. An extended tour of Auschwitz I camp and Auschwitz II (Birkenau) camp will follow with one of Auschwitz Museum's expert guides.
Afternoon	Return to Krakow by coach. Some free time to rest or explore Krakow castle will follow prior to dinner.
Evening	Evening meal in the hotel followed by bowling in outer Krakow.
Sunday 22 January	
Morning	A guided tour of the Galicia Museum on Jewish life and culture prior to the Holocaust will be followed by a meeting with a Holocaust concentration camp survivor or a relative of a survivor.
12:30 hrs	Time for a quick lunch in the Old Town before a return to the hotel.
15:20 (local time)	Check in at John Paul II Balice International Airport, for RYANAIR flight number FR 2333
21:00 (British time)	Scheduled time of arrival at Ripon Grammar School coach park.

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Mobile contact number: For the duration of the trip, students and parents may use the following numbers to call one of the two school phones which will always be in possession of two of the four staff accompanying students to Krakow Mr Spiers, Mr Bruce , Mrs Fell or Mr Bucktrout: 07376704697 or 07949862677

There is also an **Information evening in the school hall on Monday 15th January 2018 7pm-7:45pm** as mentioned in the letter sent before the Christmas holidays. I do hope the information above helps you and your son or daughter prepare for the trip. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school with any questions that you may have in the run-up to what should be a very successful and educational trip.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Spiers

spiersm@ripongrammar.co.uk

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