



St Augustine's Catholic College

Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 9EN • 01225 350001

Headteacher Mr Aidan Dowle, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

Our ref: AFD/SWE/NJA

23rd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: History trip to Berlin – October 2027

We are thrilled to announce that the History department is running an extracurricular trip to Berlin for our current Year 10 GCSE students. The trip is scheduled for 4 days and 3 nights from Thursday 14th October 2027 to Sunday 17th October 2027.

This trip has been designed with the primary goal of enhancing the understanding of key GCSE topics, specifically focusing on Weimar and Nazi Germany, as well as the Cold War. The aim is not only to deepen your child's understanding of the historical topics but also to foster a love for learning beyond the classroom. The real-world exposure to these historical sites will undoubtedly contribute to their overall academic development and cultural awareness.

Our itinerary has been carefully crafted to cover significant historical landmarks and museums. The planned visits include:

1. Guided Walking Tour
2. Brandenburg Gate
3. Reichstag
4. Dark Worlds
5. TV Tower Berlin
6. Jewish Museum Guided Tour
7. Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp
8. The Olympic Stadium
9. Alexander Platz

A more detailed itinerary, including travel times, will be provided nearer the time.

Please note that bookings will open on ParentMail at 6pm on Monday 28th September. Places are allocated on a first come first serve basis and places cannot be held without the full deposit (payable on ParentMail).

The provisional cost of the trip is £1042 per student. The flights will not be released until late October when the travel company will confirm the final cost of the trip. The price above includes a contingency amount to allow for small price increases, and the final cost will be confirmed once the flights have been released. The final price is also dependent on sufficient students signing up to the trip.

We have included an option for parents to pay by monthly instalments, should you wish to. An initial deposit of £250.00 is required by Monday 19th October 2026 to secure your child's place. Thereafter, the payments will be monthly instalments (by the last day of the month) of £75.00 between November and August with a final instalment of £42 due in September after the return from summer break.

If you are unable to see the option to pay the deposit on ParentMail, please ensure that you contact finance or the trip leader (Mrs Webb) as your child's place will not be held until the deposit is paid.

The cost of the trip covers flights, visits and trips, breakfasts and two evening meals in restaurants, insurance, transportation to and from the airport and around Berlin, hold and hand luggage and accommodation in Berlin. Students will need additional spending money to cover food and drink for lunch and whilst travelling, one evening meal (when students are given free time), any additional snacks and drinks they may want outside of meals and any small souvenirs they wish to bring back.

Accommodation

The group will be staying at the MEININGER Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus, in multi-bedded rooms. We will be using public transport to travel around the city. Please note this is subject to change dependant on their availability. <https://www.meininger-hotels.com/en/hotels/berlin/hotel-berlin-center/>

Passports and health care

Your child will need a current, valid passport in order to travel to Germany. Under new regulations, British passports must be valid for at least three months from the day you plan to leave the country. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/germany/entry-requirements> for further advice. Please ensure that if your child needs a new passport, this is done in plenty of time as the College cannot be responsible for the late arrival of passports. Please ensure that a copy of your child's passport has been submitted to the College by the 30th June 2027.

Germany is in the Schengen Travel Area and travel within this area is restricted to 90 days in any 180 day period. If the trip to Berlin means your child will exceed this, you will be responsible for obtaining any relevant visas.

New Schengen entry requirements

The European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) means when travelling into and out of the Schengen area, for short stays, you may need to:

- have your fingerprints and your photo taken
- answer the Schengen Border Code questions

Additionally, students will need to have a valid GHIC (or EHIC) card. The UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) lets you get necessary state healthcare in EU countries, and some other countries, on the same basis as a resident of that country. This is a free card. It does not replace travel insurance; this is being provided by the tour company as part of the cost. Please see <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/> for further advice.

If your child is travelling on a non-British passport, please check relevant government advice regarding visas and entry. Please note that College cannot take responsibility for any visas need and that you will need to provide a copy to the College in order to travel.

How to book your child's place

Bookings for the trip will open at 6pm on Monday 28th September 2026. If you would like your child to attend this trip, please pay the non-refundable deposit of £250 via ParentMail by Monday 19th October 2026. Please check both 'Payments – To Pay' and 'Payments – Shop' options when looking for the payment on ParentMail.

There are 50 spaces available for this trip; places are allocated on a first come first served basis. Once payment has been made an additional permission/medical form and Code of Conduct will also be required to be completed via ParentMail by Monday 19th October 2026. Please note by completing the consent form without payment does not secure a place on this trip.

Please be aware that once your child's place has been secured, the deposit will be non-refundable. In paying the deposit and giving your consent you are agreeing to pay the full cost of the trip as outlined above. If your child is unable to accompany the trip at a later date, monies can only be returned if a replacement student is found or in accordance with the company's terms and conditions. Any additional costs related to finding a replacement will be deducted from money already paid. Please note that a replacement cannot be offered within 28 days of departure.

The College reserves the right to withdraw any student from the trip at its discretion. This measure, aligned with UK educational policies and standards, ensures the safety, well-being, and effective management of the trip for all participants. This decision, while rare, is taken with serious consideration and in the best interest of the group as a whole.

Students attending trips that are scheduled to return late in the evening are expected to attend College at the normal time the following day. However, where return times are significantly late or delayed, any adjustments to start time will be determined in advance or by the Headteacher.

A trip to Iceland is also being launched by the Geography Department for students in this year group. To ensure as many students as possible benefit from these enrichment activities, we would ask that your child initially selects only one of these trips.

If we do not have adequate responses to the trip, the college reserves the right to cancel the trip and deposits will be refunded.

If you have any queries about the visit, please do not hesitate to contact the trip organiser, Mrs Webb at: webbs@st-augstines.wilts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Aidan Dowle
Headteacher