



THINKING  
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# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

## Curriculum Enrichment Week 2024 - Sixth Form Trip to Tuscany, Italy

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Students, Parents/Carers

We are really excited to relaunch our sixth form trip to Tuscany in Italy. We previously ran this trip very successfully. The trip is a chance for students to travel, not only to a fascinating country, but also to spend time with their close friends creating wonderful memories before they leave school. Many also make new and firm friendships on this trip.

Our students have a wonderful time exploring the Renaissance cities, experiencing Italian culture - the art, museums, food and, of course, enjoying the delicious ice cream. There are also optional activities such as a cycle tour of Lucca and up to two afternoons at the local outdoor pool.

Places we visit include - **Pisa** where students are stunned not only by the Leaning Tower but also by the blinding white marble of the duomo (cathedral) and the piazza in which it is set; **Siena**, one of the oldest Renaissance towns - not one single modern building can be seen. Students explore the narrow medieval streets, getting a feel for the wealth and danger of 14<sup>th</sup> century Italy. They can also enjoy the huge variety of boutiques while wandering. **Lucca**, originally a Roman town provides us with the opportunity to cycle around the city walls and attempt to find, in the labyrinthine streets, the Roman amphitheatre. We also visit **Florence** and we have the privilege of free access to one of the most famous art galleries in the world, the Uffizi in which one can see some well-known paintings e.g. Botticelli's Venus and works by Leonardo Da Vinci but for many the highlight is seeing Michelangelo's statue of David in the Accademia. For others, after all this art, the highlight is the shopping, and the market, while some just enjoy sitting in the piazzas doing what Italians like most of all - drinking coffee and people watching. The trip is busy as we visit a different city each day and have certain fixed times for museum visits etc, however between these fixed times students have free time to wander around each city in small groups. During the week there are two afternoons when students can choose to spend the afternoon at Montecatini's outdoor pool which is very safe and is patrolled by Lifeguards, or they can wander around the town at their leisure.

We stay throughout the week at the same hotel in Montecatini Terme. Our accommodation is on a half board basis. This includes a continental breakfast and an evening meal. The food is cooked on the premises and is good. Students buy their own lunch each day (around 10 euros) practising their Italian and hopefully tasting some new delicacies. We will show them where the supermarkets are as well as the nice but cheap cafes. Montecatini is a stunning, small, spa town which is actually composed of two towns, the oldest being the medieval hilltop village of Montecatini Alto, which is connected to the more modern, but no less beautiful town by a funicular railway. We travel by coach with English drivers – this is in order to keep the costs down and to have a clear understanding of where we wish to go. The journey there is around 30 hours, crossing the Channel at Dover, driving through France and Switzerland to Italy. We do stop roughly every 3 hours. Most cities are roughly an hour from the hotel, except Sienna which is just under 2 hours away.

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The cost of the trip is **£825** which includes all travel, insurance, hotel accommodation on a half board basis, and entry to all the galleries on the itinerary.

All students will need their own passport. We will ask to take copies of these later in the year. The trip is being organised for us by NST Educational Travel, a reputable company, fully bonded and insured.

If you wish to join us on this trip we require **by 29<sup>th</sup> September:**

- a non-refundable deposit of £75 – payable via ParentPay
- the attached consent form completed and signed returned to the sixth form office
- Places are limited to a maximum of 40 so I would urge you to reply as quickly as possible to ensure you get a place.

A payment schedule will be set up with staged payment dates over the academic year 2023-24.

This is also an excellent opportunity for students to become a little more independent, a good preparation for any thinking of leaving home for university next year, gap years or future trips without the family. We keep a good eye on them but they also have to budget, learn to find their way around new places and get on with a variety of people.

Yours sincerely

*K Tomalin*

Kate Tomalin  
Trip leader

CONSENT FORM - YEAR 12 TRIP TO TUSCANY (TO BE RETURNED TO THE SIXTH FROM OFFICE)  
6<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Any relevant information concerning your son/daughter's health requiring special attention but which does not prevent her taking part should be noted below.

Does your child suffer from allergies? If so give details

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Take medication and, if so, what is the dosage required?

.....

Experience travel sickness?

.....

Have Diabetes, Asthma or Epilepsy?

.....

Has your child had any relevant recent illness?

.....

Have any specific dietary requirements? E.g. vegetarian, no pork, no nuts, no dairy, please specify

.....

Any additional comments?

.....

I confirm that my son/daughter can swim 50 metres Yes / No

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the above-mentioned visit and, having read the information provided, agree to him/her taking part in the activities described and understand that he/she will not be directly supervised at all times, having been given free time to explore in small groups.

Yes / No

I confirm that my child is in good health and I consider her/him fit to participate. Yes / No

Name of Student ..... Tutor Group .....

Student's mobile phone number (for use on the trip).....

Address .....

Parents/Guardian's Telephone Number (Home) ..... Work .....

Emergency contact numbers & (names) :.....

Name of Family Doctor :.....Telephone number: .....

Signed (Parent/Guardian) ..... Date .....