



4 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### The Ultimate School Trip – Friday 5 March 2021

Firstly, I want to say how impressed I am with the Foundation students and how well they have been engaging with online lessons during this latest period of lockdown; their resilience and commitment to learning has been outstanding. I have heard lots of positive feedback from their teachers and Heads of Year, and we are looking forward to welcoming them back to school later next week.

We are conscious they have not had the same experience of Maiden Erlegh School as other year groups to date, with regards to extra-curricular activities, clubs, trips and celebration events. We are keen to rectify this as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, we are excited to offer an opportunity **this Friday – Friday 5 March** - for Year 7 & 8 students to go on 'The Ultimate School Trip'.

We have registered with an initiative from Millfield School in Somerset who have arranged 3 virtual trips on Friday 5 March. The details of these are given below:

**Departure Time:** 9.30am  
**Destination:** Japan  
**Trip Highlights:** During the Ultimate School Trip's visit to Japan you will:

- Have a tour of the coolest sites from a local art student
- Chat to the Deputy Chef de Mission of Team GB's Olympic Team, Olympian and medallist, Georgie Harland
- Prepare the finest Japanese food and learn about Japanese hospitality
- Understand the ancient culture of the kimono and calligraphy, through doing it yourself

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GHk7NTrAIQ>

**Departure Time:** 12.30pm  
**Destination:** Italy  
**Trip Highlights:** During the Ultimate School Trip's visit to Italy you will:

- Have a tour of classical and medieval Rome with archaeologist Dr Adam Gutteridge
- Experience Venice's traditional theatre scene Commedia Dell'Arte
- Journey back to 79AD and the eruption of Vesuvius with volcano's expert John Davidson and Dr Adam Gutteridge
- Have a cooking lesson with an Italian chef (see the kit list for the ingredients you will need if you want to follow the demonstration)

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI5QxTYKmsU>

**Departure Time:** 2.00pm  
**Destination:** Iceland  
**Trip Highlights:** During the Ultimate School Trip's visit to Iceland you will:

- Visit Reykjavik, the golden triangle and some of Iceland's other hot spots (in every sense) with Iceland expert Karen Corfield
- Experience the extraordinary Solheimajokull glacier, with expert Simon Ross
- Find out about expedition medicine with Dr Tariq Qureshi
- Adventure across Iceland on foot and pack raft with adventurer Alastair Humphreys and get ready for your own adventures this summer

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACwEB1cNwAM>

Students will attend registration with their tutor on Friday 5 March and complete their PSMSC programme until 9.25am as normal. After this we expect students to attend at least two of the virtual trips listed above.

All the trips are live on YouTube, and students are required to click on the links above at the required departure time. They will be able to submit questions via the email address in the travel brochure, which will then be answered by their Tour Guide. The brochure can be viewed [here](#).

We recognise this as a highly valuable opportunity for the Foundation students to increase their cultural and geographical knowledge and are pleased to be able to facilitate this taking place for them in conjunction with Millfield School. In agreeing to your child engaging with these trips, it will be your responsibility to remotely supervise your child for the duration. Should you or your child have any concerns when participating in this activity then please contact the appropriate Head of Year and/or Safeguarding Team as appropriate.

We don't want students in Pop Up School to miss out, so they will be able to join the trips to Japan and Italy whilst in Pop Up School on Friday 5 March, under the supervision of their teacher.

We accept that this is late notice but having found the information earlier this week and researching it in more detail, we really felt it was too good an opportunity not to miss!

We look forward to hearing about their travels next week when they return.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Bendall  
Senior Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral