



24 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 Creative Writing trip to Dorset 5 - 7 July 2024

We are once again running our very popular residential creative writing trip for Year 10 pupils in Dorset. As well as being an enjoyable and enriching experience, the trip is an excellent opportunity for students to improve their creative writing skills, both for their own enjoyment and specifically for GCSE English Language Paper 1, in which creative writing accounts for half of the marks on the paper. In addition, students will learn about Thomas Hardy, whose poetry they study for GCSE English Literature.

We will leave Marlow on the morning of Friday 5 July and travel by coach to Springhead in Fontmell Magna, Dorset. A former watermill, Springhead is a collection of historic buildings and extensive gardens which offer an inspiring environment in which to stay and write. Students will spend the weekend writing with guidance from members of school staff. We will visit Thomas Hardy's cottage near Dorchester to learn more about the poet and author, as well as visiting Shaftesbury, Corfe Castle, Swangage, Stonehenge and Salisbury. We will return to Marlow on Sunday 7 July around 7pm.

The cost of the trip including coach travel, accommodation, meals and insurance will be £260-300 depending on the final number of students joining. In line with the school's charging policy, parents are reminded that school charity funds exist to assist families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their son or daughter from participating. Please apply in writing to Mrs Walder, the Deputy Headteacher, outlining the reasons why support is required, by the date below.

To maintain an effective staff-to-student ratio, places on the trip are limited to 24; if you would like to book one for your son/daughter, please pay an **initial deposit of £50 by Sunday 3 December via Parentpay**. If you need a copy of your activation details, or are unable to access Parentpay, please email parentpay@swbgs.com. Once the deadline has passed I will be able to confirm the final cost and provide a payment schedule.

Please note that the deposit is a commitment to pay the full cost of the trip. If your son/daughter withdraws from the trip, we will endeavour to find a replacement to take their place, otherwise you will be required to pay the full cost. If your son/daughter falls ill once full payment has been made, a refund of recoverable costs will be made if a replacement can't be found. If the trip has to be cancelled due to government restrictions, you will be refunded all recoverable costs.

If you have any questions, please email me via parents@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

James Lofthouse
Literacy Co-ordinator

