



11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 13 Study visit to the National Archives and Hampton Court, Tuesday 6 October 2026

After an exciting first year of studying A level History at Borlase, I am pleased to be writing to announce an upcoming Year 13 study visit to both the National Archives in Kew and Hampton Court Palace.

One part of the day will involve visiting the **National Archives in Kew** in order to experience one of their interactive A-level history workshops in a purpose-built education room. To be more specific, the session is geared directly towards the NEA and is entitled:

Civil rights and racial segregation: What was the response to racial segregation in the US?

Exploring a range of Foreign Office files that have been de-classified and produced by the British Government during the presidencies of Eisenhower, JFK and Johnson, our students will investigate the response of the ordinary Americans and the US government to segregation within the USA during the 1950s and 1960s. Furthermore, they will examine how the response to segregation changed over time and why the British government was monitoring the civil rights situation in the first place.

The second part of the day will involve a visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. This will be the third time that we have taken an A-level cohort to Hampton Court, and the visit is an opportunity to enrich the student's study of The Tudors. In particular, the English Reformation.

Part of the day will involve a self-guided walking tour of the Palace that has been tailored to this particular part of the AQA specification. Entitled, *What was the driving force of the English Reformation?*, the tour promises to be both exciting and beneficial, for the buildings of Hampton Court Palace offer insight into the choices and influences of King Henry VIII.

As part of the tour students will analyse Henry's own personal faith, the rollercoaster of shifting dogma and the people who held different sway over the King's decisions. Indeed, the students will evaluate the factors that would determine the course of England's faith for centuries to come. Time permitting, the other part of the Hampton Court 'leg' will involve a walking tour of the surrounding gardens, inclusive of the fabulous Royal Tennis Court, which is Grade I listed court that was constructed for Cardinal Wolsey between 1526 and 1529.

Transport and Itinerary

We are travelling to both sites, together, by coach and hope to leave at 8.30am and return to school by 5.00pm. There will be an opportunity to purchase some lunch at either the National Archives or the Palace, but your child will require a water bottle and may choose to bring their own packed lunch. They will need to wear their normal school attire.

Spending money

There should be some time to pay a visit to one of the shops within Hampton Court and so pupils may want to bring a small amount for any souvenirs; we would suggest £10 maximum.

Cost

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of **£21** to support the costs of this trip (including ticket, coach transport and [insurance](#)); please note if we do not receive the required number of contributions we will be unable to run the trip. To make this payment, please log onto [ParentPay](#) using your username and password to pay **by 9.00am Friday 18 September**. If you need a copy of your activation details or are unable to access Parentpay, please email parentpay@swbgs.com.

Bursary Funds exist to assist Sixth Form Pupils with their studies. In order to assess the requirement as fully as possible, students seeking such support are to discuss their whole year requirements with their Sixth Form Support Officer before applying.

This is a Category B trip, as defined by the school's Trips and Visits policy. As such, payment for the trip on ParentPay is taken as confirmation of consent for your child to attend and that the contact and medical details that the school has on record for you are up-to-date and correct.

If you have any further questions to ask, then please feel free to contact me via parents@swbgs.com right away.

Yours faithfully

Miss Dyke and Mr Mead
The History Department