SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

West Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 2BR
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Telephone: 01628 816500

Headteacher: Mr E Goodall

13 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 12(13) Physics Educational Visit to Switzerland, 14-16 February 2028

We are very excited to announce that we are planning a three-day trip for current Year 12 Physics students to Switzerland during February 2028 (when they will be in Year 13). **The trip will run from Monday 14 February to Wednesday 16 February 2028.** This will be during February half term so students will not miss any timetabled lessons. Numbers will be limited to 40 places on this visit. The trip will be led by the Head of Physics, Miss Pike, accompanied by three other members of staff.

The trip will provide an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of key topics within the Physics A-level specification, including:

- **Particle physics and electromagnetism** - visits to CERN and Science Gateway will bring to life the study of fundamental particles and the use of electric and magnetic fields in particle accelerators.
- **Nuclear physics and energy** - a visit to the Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne will introduce students to nuclear fusion developments, plasma confinement and research into future energy sources.
- **Practical investigation** - hands-on activities at CERN will encourage students to develop their experimental skills, scientific curiosity and problem-solving.

We will be staying in Geneva. The planned itinerary includes visits to CERN and its Science Gateway, a hands-on CERN laboratory workshop and a guided tour of the Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne - alongside opportunities to explore Geneva and visit a Swiss chocolatier. Visits and activities are subject to availability.

The trip is organised through Diverse School Travel, who are ATOL and ABTA protected. The estimated total cost of the trip will be between **£900 and £1,000**, depending on the final number travelling, exchange rate fluctuations and flight prices, which are not yet available for February 2028. This will cover all transport, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, dinner, insurance and entrance charges for the planned visits and activities. Students will need to buy their own lunch. To secure a place for your child on this trip, **please pay an initial deposit of £200 by 12 noon Tuesday 1 December 2026** via Parentpay. If you need a copy of your activation details or are unable to access Parentpay please email parentpay@swbgs.com. Once numbers have been confirmed we will provide you with a payment schedule to spread the final cost of the trip.

Please note, should the level of interest exceed the places available (40), students will be allocated to the visit via a ballot and if you are unsuccessful, your deposit will be returned to you. If the trip is not viable due to insufficient funding we will let you know in good time and refund any payments made.

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As this is not an essential curriculum trip students who receive bursary funding will not be able to use their bursary for this trip, however for families experiencing financial difficulties we can discuss a payment plan. Please contact bursar@swbgs.com in this instance.

This is a Category C trip, as defined by the school's Trips and Visits policy and as such it is imperative that students follow the school's behaviour policy at all times. Students are to follow instructions from teaching staff and the specialist guides. Alcohol consumption, smoking and vaping are prohibited and students are prohibited from entering accommodation areas of the opposite sex.

Please note that the deposit is a commitment to pay the full cost of the trip. If your child 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 child is unable to travel once full payment has been made, a refund of recoverable costs will be made.

Should you have any queries about the trip please email me via parents@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Pike
Head of Physics