



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

Rose Hill Road Handsworth Birmingham B21 9AR

Telephone: Office 0121 554 2342

Fax: 0121 554 3879

Email: office@kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk

www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk

Registered Charity No: 529051

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Dear Parents,

KS4/5 Holocaust Tour: 10th-12th July 2009

Now that all payments have been received, please can I draw your attention to a few forthcoming events and administrative matters regarding our trip this summer.

Your daughter has been invited to attend a lunchtime workshop with two sixth form girls who recently participated in a day visit to Auschwitz, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Whilst girls have of course studied the Nazis' treatment of the Jews in History/Religious Studies, we are nevertheless keen to prepare them for what they about to see and will also be recommending a range of books and films that they might try to read/view before the trip.

We would also like to invite you to a parents' meeting on **Wednesday 24th June at 6pm** in the Centenary Room. We will, of course, send out a reminder nearer the time, together with all the relevant school consent forms. We hope to keep in touch with the Year 11s via e-mail during their study leave and would ask that all girls meet us at lunchtime on **Monday 6th July** (Y11 work experience debrief day) to discuss final arrangements and on **Tuesday 14th July** when they will have the opportunity to reflect on the trip with their peers. We hope to set up an online forum, via the school's new virtual learning environment, which will allow girls to share their thoughts in a more informal manner over the summer holiday period.

In the meantime, might I once again remind you to ensure that your daughter has a valid passport, dated within six months of the departure date. Please could you check that the name on the passport corresponds *exactly* with that written above – any error in the information we submit to the airline may result in a delayed departure (something we are anxious to avoid!) and a further payment by yourself in order to correct these details. Equally, we would like to know as soon as possible if your daughter has a *non-British* passport.

You should also apply now for a European Health Insurance card. These are free of charge and can be obtained online at <https://www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do>. We will be collecting in all passports and EHC cards prior to the parents' evening in June. Whilst the trip is still two months' away, it might be wise to keep an eye on the exchange rate for the Polish zloty. Your daughter will not require very much spending money – enough for two light lunches and maybe a few souvenirs from Krakow. We do not anticipate that there will be many shopping opportunities!

Finally, can I remind you of the early meeting time on 10th July – 4:15am at Birmingham airport – so that you can make the necessary travel arrangements. We recommend that girls share lifts where possible. The return time is somewhat more civilised - approximately 12:30 on the Sunday afternoon. Once again, apologies for the early start – this was the only flight available to us!

If you have any further queries regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Otherwise, I will be in touch again prior to the parents' evening.

Yours faithfully

Miss J.E. Smith
Head of History and Politics