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Dear Parents and Carers,

Perth Grammar School - Trips and Excursions 2017 and Beyond

At Perth Grammar we are committed to developing all our young people as globally aware responsible young citizens keen to make a difference in their community and beyond. For this reason we offer a range of residential experiences from S1-S6 that will broaden their horizons, connect with young people in other parts of the world and build their skills for learning, life and work.

A summary of the current 'big' trips that we would like to offer young people over the next couple of years is shown at the end of this letter. We are aware that trips of this kind can involve significant financial commitment. By giving you notice of what is on offer at the start of the session, we hope to help you make an informed choice and support you to plan financial commitments.

We want all pupils to be included in these opportunities regardless of background. If you would like your child to be involved in a trip but have concerns about the cost, then please contact us to discuss. There are a number of ways we can help you. These include:

- **The Wallace Trust**

This fund was set up with a donation from a local community member who thought it was important for pupils to have opportunities to take part in International Education and to excel in Sport or the Expressive Arts. Pupils who have barriers to participation can apply for a bursary of up to £250 towards the cost of a trip. In exceptional circumstances we may consider paying the full cost.

- **Perth and Kinross Credit Union**

We have a new partnership with this local community savings co-operative. Credit Unions are successful across the UK in supporting families and individuals to save and enabling them to access small, low interest loans for big expenses. By opening an account with [Perth and Kinross Credit Union](#), you can use your savings to obtain a loan for the full cost of the trip and then pay back at your own rate whilst continuing to save. For example, if you have saved £300, you can borrow the full cost of a trip that costs £600 without using all your savings.

- **Payment plans**

In all trips we will provide a flexible payment schedule to help you spread payments across a suitable period of time. We are happy to negotiate any arrangement that suits your circumstances.

- **Parent Pay**

We now use the system ['Parent Pay'](#) for most trips. This is a popular online payment system now used by many schools which allows you to manage your payments easily and helps us to communicate with you about trips and excursions.

Exchange trips

You will see that several of our international experiences are exchange programmes involving pupils hosting each other in the family home. We have found that these are excellent experiences for pupils, leading to the formation of new lifelong friendships as well as providing a much richer experience of life in another culture. They do involve a bigger family commitment but parents almost always find this to be a positive thing. There are some circumstances where a pupil can take part without hosting.

Please do not hesitate to contact us about financial support or any aspect of the trips we offer,

Yours sincerely,



Michael J. Farrell

DHT

Perth Grammar School – Trips and Excursions 2017 and Beyond

| Trip | Dates | Cost | Number of places | Year Group | Contact | Other information |
|--|---|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|---|
| Perth – Aschaffenburg (Germany) Exchange | 30 th Sept – 6 th Oct 2017 in Aschaffenburg June 2018 in Perth (dates tbc) | £250 approx | 15 | S4-6 | Miss Connon | This is an exchange trip with a school in Germany. It is subsidised by a European Union 'Erasmus +' grant. Priority for pupils who can host a German student. Sign up is open for this trip - there are still places available. |
| Perth – Trento (Italy) Exchange | 21-28 th Oct 2017 in Perth 10 th -17 th Feb 2018 in Trento | £400 approx | 10 | S5-6 | Mrs McLeish or Mrs Millar | An exchange trip with a Graphic Arts school in northern Italy. Priority given to pupils who can host an Italian student and have an interest in Art or Graphics. Sign up is open for this trip - there are still places available. |
| Ski Trip (Pila, Italy) | 24 Feb – 4 March 2018 | £780 approx | 24 | S1-4 | Mrs Taylor | Whilst this trip is about learning to ski, it has also consistently helped to build a wide range of skills and attitudes including confidence, resilience and teamwork. Sign up is open for this trip - there may still be places available. |
| London | May 14-17 (tbc) | £350 approx | 40 | S1-3 | Mr Dudgeon | Introduces pupils to the culture and atmosphere of London and includes going to a major drama production and other exciting attractions. Sign up opens in August |
| Normandy, France | May-June 2018 (dates tbc) | £500 approx | 40 | S1-3 | Mr Carmichael | Designed to give pupils a full cultural experience of France to help develop their language and communication skills. Sign up open next term. |
| Iowa Exchange | June 2018 in Perth October 2018 in Iowa | £1350 approx | 20 | S3-6 | Mr Kesson | This is an exchange trip with a school in the USA. Priority for pupils who can host an American student. Sign up is open for this trip - there are still places available. |
| Madrid | 18-23 June 2018 | £700 approx | 40 | S1-3 | Mr Hunter | This trip is designed to give pupils a full cultural experience of Spain to help develop their language and communication skills. Notes of interest open now. |
| Tanzania | June 2019 | £2000 approx | 20-30 | S4-5 | Miss Loudon | A partnership with charity organisation, The Vine Trust. Pupils taking part will form a 'work party' to build new homes for vulnerable families. They are expected to fundraise for their own trip as well as supporting fundraising efforts for building materials. Pupil input is recognised with a safari at the end of the trip! Notes of interest open now. |

Please note that these trips will only run if sufficient numbers sign up.