

10 March 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

As our trip to New York City is fast approaching, I wanted to contact you regarding a number of updates including the need to do a Lateral Flow Test to enter the USA.

Below is a list of steps that should be completed around this time:

- Paid for the trip in full.
- Applied for and had approved the visa permit (ESTA).
- Begin to order American dollars and/or create a prepaid cash-card.
- Ensured that your child is double vaccinated by the 23 March 2022.

Can I please ask that once your child has had their double vaccine, that you apply for the NHS letter that proves their vaccine status. This can be done by calling 119. Alternatively, children can now create an account on the NHS app and request proof of vaccine in the same way that adults would. I will contact you in the near future regarding this.

Regarding Covid procedures for entering New York, the USA requires us to have done a lateral flow test within 24 hours of departure. This test needs to be done in-front of a healthcare professional using a registered company. To that end, we have booked the antigen tests with a company called Qured at a cost of £26.10 per person.

Please could you pay this via MCAS at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact myself anytime.

The process of doing the lateral flow tests will be as follows:

1. Lateral flow kits arrive – the pupils create an account with Qured and register their kit. At this point they choose a webcam slot to do the test. This will be Periods 4 and 5 of April 6<sup>th</sup>. They then hand the unused kit back to staff to keep at school.
2. On 6 April we will take the pupils into a computer room during Periods 4 and 5 where they will do the lateral flow test via the webcam.
3. After 15 minutes they will take a photo of the test result **and their passport** and send these to Qured via their account.
4. A digital certificate will be emailed back to them which they will then upload to a 'fit to fly' website (Virgin Airways).

To ensure all of the students register in time to secure a webcam slot on 6 April between 13:00 and 15:00, I will be holding a meeting **after school on Tuesday 15 March, 15.05 until 16.05**. It is extremely important that your child is able to attend this meeting so that we can guarantee a webcam slot within 24 hours of departure.

As part of the itinerary we will have a talk from a Civil Rights veteran, however, this content isn't studied until year 11. Therefore, I would like to hold an after-school session in the theatre for all students going to NYC to give them some background information on the topic prior to the talk. This will be held on **Tuesday 29 March, 15:05 until 16:05**.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you for being patient with us regarding the whole process. I appreciate there may be questions that I haven't addressed here, so please feel free to contact me anytime.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Durham', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Durham  
**Curriculum Leader of History and Social Science**