



23 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: New York February 2027**

We are now able to give you final plans for our Performing Arts' Trip to New York. If we have more than 40 students wanting to come on this trip we will ballot the places. If we don't fill the trip with Drama and Dance students, we will open it up to students studying Music. The trip is open to GCSE Drama and Dance students studying the subjects when they are in Years 10 and 11 in 2027.

Students can secure their place with a signed permission slip and a deposit of £300. The trip will open for deposits on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The full balance of the trip needs to be settled by 30 November 2026. The total cost of the trip will be £2275.

As flights have not been released yet, this price is an estimate, and the travel company have advised us to let you know there is a small possibility of the flights costing as much as £80 pp more. If flights were less than the estimate, we would take this money off the price of the trip. If the flights cost more, we will write to you again. As flights have not yet been released the dates and times for the trip need some flexibility. NST has a good history of accuracy when pricing trips so we hope £2275 will be the price of the complete trip.

The payment covers:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to New York
- All coach transfers
- 4 nights Bed and Breakfast at Hostelling International New York (5<sup>th</sup> night return travel home)
- All meals
- Subway travel card
- 2 Broadway shows TBC
- 2 x 90 min Musical Theatre Workshop
- Entrance to Top of the Rock (Rockefeller Centre)
- Tour of Radio City Music Hall
- All sight-seeing activities (Central Park, Staten Island Ferry, Trip to 911 Memorial, shopping on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, an evening in Times Square, Tour of Grand Central Station, Brooklyn Bridge and the High Line to name just a few.)
- 3 Course Meal and drink at Ellen's Stardust Diner

Not Included:

- Personal spending money
- ESTA application – it is advised you apply for your ESTA as soon as you have the place confirmed for the trip. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/entry-requirements>



**Payment Schedules**

Deposit	£300	31/01/25
Instalment 1	£179.54	31/03/25
Instalment 2	£179.54	31/05/25
Instalment 3	£179.54	31/07/25
Instalment 4	£179.54	30/09/25
Instalment 5	£179.54	30/11/25
Instalment 6	£179.54	31/01/26
Instalment 7	£179.54	31/03/26
Instalment 8	£179.54	31/05/26
Instalment 9	£179.54	31/07/26
Instalment 10	£179.54	30/09/26
Instalment 11	£179.54	30/11/26

**FSM**

Students who currently receive Free School Meals are entitled to one free trip during their time at the school. However, for trips costing over £1500, parents/carers are asked to pay the deposit, which in this case is £300. The balance is then covered by government funding.

We hope to leave from London on Saturday 13 February 2027 and return on Thursday 18 February 2027. Once places have been confirmed we will send out a further letter with a more detailed itinerary.

We will hold a parents' information evening a few weeks before the trip.

All students need to have a valid passport (valid for six months after date of return) and a visa if required (it is the parents'/carers' responsibility to obtain it).

We are happy for you to contact us with any questions you have before committing to this trip (astep@castle.bep.ac). As stated in our initial letter to families, it is essential students have a positive working relationship with the staff leading the trip to ensure its success for all involved. We look forward to updating you with more information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Step  
**Head of Drama**  
**The Castle School**

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**NYC trip 13-18 February 2027 - Please return to Student Reception by 31 January 2025**

Name of student..... Year group they will be in when trip commences.....

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the trip to NYC in February 2027

I am currently receiving Free School Meals

Printed name (Parent/Carer) .....

Signed.....

Date.....