



5 December 2024

Dear families,

We are writing to you with some exciting, initial information about the 2027 Performing Arts trip to New York City. We want to give families as much notice as possible as it is an expensive trip and may need some careful financial planning. It is our tradition that we take 40 students to experience the magic of Broadway across 5 action packed days in February half term break.

The trip combines the best of theatre and sightseeing. It is an action-packed itinerary that includes

- Two Broadway shows – we saw MJ the Musical and Moulin Rouge on our last trip
- Workshops in rehearsal studios with the musical director/ performers from the show we have seen
- Picturesque stroll around Central Park (often under a blanket of snow)
- Shopping and dining in Times Square
- Retail therapy on the iconic Fifth Avenue
- A scenic trip to Staten Island for a breathtaking view of the Statue of Liberty
- Experience the city from new heights at the Top of the Rock observation deck
- Enjoy an unforgettable tour of the world-famous Radio City Music Hall
- Dine with the stars at Ellen's Stardust Diner.

We have taken students to New York since 2017, and staff have good knowledge of the city and how to navigate, making the most of our time there. Taking our Dance and Drama students means that the trip is vibrant; singing on the subway, dancing at the foot of the steps in Times Square making the most of all the opportunities to perform in the city that never sleeps. Ex students tell us that the trip is magical and a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The trip is available to students who will be in Years 10 and 11 in February 2027 – our current Year 8 and 9 students. Students also need to be studying or planning on studying GCSE Drama or Dance. If we don't fill spaces with GCSE Drama and Dance students, we will open this trip to GCSE and BTEC Music students. If you are in receipt of free school meals and have not taken the offer of a school paid for big trip this might be a great one to choose. We would request the contribution of the deposit only. The price of the trip for students this coming February (2025) is £1950 and included the following:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to New York
- All coach transfers
- 4 nights Bed and Breakfast at Hostelling International New York (5th night return travel home)
- All meals
- Subway travel card
- 2 Broadway shows
- 2 x 90 min Musical Theatre Workshop
- Entrance to Top of the Rock (Rockefeller Centre)
- Tour of Radio City Music Hall
- 3 Course Meal and drink at Ellen's Stardust Diner

We expect the price of the 2027 trip to be higher and imagine it will be closer to £2200.
We will update in due course when we know the full price of 2027 trip but feel that families would appreciate as much notice as possible to plan as prices will only go up.

I look forward to writing again with more information soon.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexa Step". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alexa Step
Head of Performing Arts
The Castle School