



May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

UPDATE – TEXAS SPACE SCHOOL, October 2020

We thought it would be appropriate to write to all parents/carers regarding the planned trip to Texas in October 2020 as I am sure you are wondering what the situation is. Currently, all school trips are cancelled until 24 July. The authority and its insurer will review the global situation at that time about future trips during and beyond summer, so we cannot make a final decision on the trip until then. If the authority/insurer cancels the trip, all deposits (including non-refundable deposits) will be refunded. If we make the decision ourselves, we forfeit that money, so it is best to wait for now. At the moment we, like everyone, are very unsure if travel to the United States will be permitted by October 2020. We have been in touch with our travel company (Visions) who have been very clear regarding possible cancellation fees:

- If we choose to cancel before 2 August, each pupil will lose 50% of the total cost. This will increase to 75% of the trip between 3 August and 20 September and will go to 100% from 21 September.
- Visions have also stated that if the trip were to go ahead but with fewer pupils, the cost will increase for the remaining pupils.
- As we are not in a position to continue to collect in deposits Visions are aware we will need to push back our final payment date as well as information for flights and ESTAs.
- Visions are members of ABTA so if they go out of business then all monies would be repaid by ABTA.

At present it is not possible to apply for ESTAs. However, if a passport needs to be renewed please apply as soon as possible as we will need details before the end of June if the trip goes ahead.

We are in a very difficult and unprecedented situation, so for the reasons outlined above, as a school we have decided to wait until July to make any formal decision on this trip. If there is any specific conversation you wish to have concerning this trip, please get in touch. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J A Hargreaves / Dr K J Hargreaves / Mr A Ormrod
D&G Regional Space School Trip Leaders



Gillian Brydson
Head of Education
Education and Learning Directorate
Rector: Brian Asher
Lockerbie Academy, Glasgow Road, Lockerbie. DG11 2AT
Tel: +44 (0) 1576 205170 Fax: +44 (0) 1576 203829
E-mail: gw08asherbrian@glow.sch.uk
Website: www.lockerbieacademy.dumgal.sch.uk

