

Our Ref: FRS/LOC/MER

11th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Tour to South Africa - February 2024.
Combined Tour: North Durham Academy, Consett Academy and Wellfield School

Be part of something special! A once in a lifetime, potentially life changing, opportunity!

Would your child like to be part of our South Africa Project? Wellfield School has had a long-established partnership with Schitsdrift School in Kwazulu-Natal which has had a huge impact on education in the Zulu partner school and made long lasting impressions on the Wellfield students and staff who have participated in the **6** previous visits so far. For the next visit, students from both North Durham Academy and Consett Academy are invited to join the team and start their own links with Schitsdrift School.

Since 2008, through our help, Schitsdrift School has gone from this:



to this in 2016 and 2018:



and this in 2020:



Previous project visits have not only led to strong friendships between the two schools but have also resulted in the provision of a library, a chicken run and laying hens, a vegetable garden, a teaching kitchen and, more recently, an interactive whiteboard to help develop the quality of teaching as well as upcycled desks and new seating.

We are delighted **to launch the next visit inviting students from Consett Academy and North Durham Academy to participate in the tour which** will take place **in 2024**, running from **11th – 24th February '24**, including the half term holiday. This is open to students who are currently in **Years 7 and 8 at Wellfield, Consett and North Durham**. Also, students currently in **Year 10 at Consett Academy**, are invited to apply to take part if they are intending to stay and study in the 6th form provision at Consett.

We are able to offer this wonderful experience at a **fantastic TOTAL COST of £1,800**. The price builds in the possible impact of inflation or change in exchange rates as well as the uncertainty about flight prices at this stage. This visit will have **a maximum capacity of 12 students** per school who can accompany the visit, although a waiting list will also be compiled. If you would like your child to attend this visit, please complete the expression of interest form at the end of this letter by **Friday 20th May 2022**. (Paper copies will be available to collect at Student Reception).

We do expect significant interest in this visit so please do not hesitate to submit your interest. After the deadline, a meeting will be set up for parents who have expressed an interest for them to find out more details about the organisation of the trip, after which we will need confirmation that you would still like your child to be included and the deposit paid as per the payment plan detailed below. If there are significantly more students wanting to participate than we have places available, students may need to apply via a short letter outlining why they should take part. Any places remaining available from one school's allocation will be offered to the other schools and we will also hold a waiting list in case a student has to withdraw from the trip.

The £1800 of the tour **DOES** include the following:

- All flights from Newcastle to Johannesburg via a European or Dubai connection. Flight and visit insurance.
- 11 nights' accommodation at Spionkop Lodge near Winterton, Kwazulu-Natal.
- All meals - mostly self-catering but including some restaurant meals as well.
- Local travel and transfers; all activities, trips and excursions.
- Preparation of immigration documentation for children travelling without both parents to South Africa and authorisation by a legal Notary.
- Project costs incurred when working in the project school - Schitsdrift School. (Supporting pupils in class, teaching pupils, playing with them at break times, training teachers (!) and completing repairs or basic construction tasks depending on the needs of the school at the time.)
- Any test required for return to the UK such as COVID PCRs **IF** there was a similar global health concern at the time of departure or return to the U.K.

The price of the tour **does NOT** include the following:

- Return transfer from Newcastle Airport including on arrival back in the UK.
- Individual travel documentation - passport. Each student needs his or her own passport – please check passport requirements re e.g., expiry date.
- Visa – however not currently required if travelling on a UK passport.
- Personal clothing, equipment, and travel inoculations, although none are currently required except COVID vaccination and boosters for South Africa. Currently people entering South Africa who are not fully vaccinated must present a negative PCR test.
- Spending money for souvenirs or additional drinks.

Whilst in South Africa, students will spend the mornings most days at the school helping the Zulu pupils with their work, especially improving their English, and building up strong friendship links.

However, the visit is also about having fun, personal development and finding out about the culture and the area so there will be a number of activities and excursions for students to experience. The 'in resort' itinerary would probably include most of the following as well as other exciting opportunities:

- Spionkop Game Drive at Spionkop Game Reserve
- Thokoziza shopping trip and lunch
- Mount Alice walk and/or Battlefield Tour
- Nambiti safari at dawn
- Dinner at Bingelela, Bergville
- Walk and nature experience at Monks Cowl, Champagne Castle in the Drakensberg mountains
- Braais

Once participation is confirmed an initial deposit of **£150** will be payable by **6th June 2022 via Parentpay** in order to secure a place on the trip. The deposit is **non-refundable** unless a replacement can be found should your child have to withdraw from the trip. Interim payments of varying amounts will then be due by the following dates:

- Interim payment 1 of £150 by 5th July 2022. Interim payment 2 of £400 by 5th December 2022
- Interim payment 3 of £300 by 5th March 2023. Interim payment 4 of £400 by 5th July 2023
- Final payment of £400 by 5th December 2023

If you would like to find out more information about this visit to South Africa, please email the following staff who are leading the visit from your schools:

Wellfield: a.mcallister@wellfieldschool.net

Consett: l.crawford@ncdat.org.uk

North Durham Academy: c.raper@ndacademy.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs F Swinburn
Chair of LGB – NDA and Trust Director
South Africa Project Co-ordinator

Please complete the details required below and return to Mrs Crawford or Student Reception by 20th May

South Africa Trip – 2024

I would like my child to be considered for a place on the trip to South Africa in February 2024.

Student's full name: _____

Student's year group: _____

Student's date of birth: _____

I understand and agree to the following:

- I will need to attend the parents' information meeting before my child can be accepted onto the trip.
- My child may have to apply if there are more students wanting to participate than there are places available.
- The initial deposit is non-refundable unless a replacement can be found if my child withdraws from the trip.
- If my child participates in the trip, I will ensure that they have a passport which meets any and all South Africa immigration requirements at the time.
- If my child participates in the trip, I acknowledge that it is on the basis that they meet the school's normal expectations in terms of behaviour and effort. If my child is unable to comply with them, they may be removed from the trip at the school's discretion.

Parent / Carer name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Contact email address: _____