



# Sandbach High School

and Sixth Form College

Our Academy, Our Future

## **NASA trip to Huston, Texas.**

Sept 2018

Dear Parent /Carer,

### ***Date & Destination***

February half term 2021, Johnson Space Centre, Texas (date TBC)

### ***Purpose of the Trip***

This is a specially planned activity week for girls aged 13-19, working alongside scientists and engineers from NASA. During the week, students will be challenged by a range of activities in a mock space exploration mission. Additionally the students will receive unprecedented access to Johnson Space Centre and a wide variety of its staff and astronauts.

### ***Planned Activities***

Activities during the trip include:

- Tours of Johnson Space Centre
- Presentations by NASA scientists and engineers
- Design, construction and programming a Mars Rover robot
- Rock sampling workshop
- Micro gravity training in the scuba diving pool
- Rocket design, construction, testing, launch and recovery
- Evening activities such as shopping mall, pizza night, pool party and amusement park.
- Graduation awards ceremony

### ***Travel Arrangements***

Flights are not yet on sale for 2021 but a quote has been received based on our 2018 visit. This included direct flights from Manchester to Houston, airport transfers in the UK and USA, hotel including breakfast, lunch at the space centre and 'most' evening meals, as meals on day of arrival and departure are not included. Previously we have been able to book a Tex-Mex restaurant a short walk from the hotel on the evening of our arrival.

### ***Cost***

For the visit to be financially viable, it is anticipated that we take a minimum of 20 students, rising to a maximum of 40. Currently the quoted cost is expected to be between £1900 and £2000 depending on numbers and cost of flights. This includes transport costs, hotel and planned activities.

Payment may be made in stages with an initial deposit of £100.00 by **Friday 5 October 2018**. A further £100.00 will be required 12 weeks later, **Monday 7 January 2019**, with the final balance due 20 weeks prior to departure (**Friday 16 October 2020**). This trip is not covered by the Pupil Premium scheme, and as such the Academy is unable to offer any financial assistance.

**Booking Procedure**

All pupils returning their consent forms and £100 deposit on or before **Friday 5 October 2018** will have an equal chance of securing a place on this trip. If the trip is oversubscribed by the close of business on the 5th October, then all consent forms returned by that day will be entered into a draw in order to allocate places. If your daughter is unsuccessful in obtaining a place on this trip, a full refund of your deposit will be given either by cheque or via your Parent Pay account and a waiting list will be created. In the event of places remaining unsold, we will continue to promote the trip until all places have been sold or up to 6 months prior to departure. Students and their families will be responsible for obtaining their own passports and ESTA applications. Students scuba diving will be subject to NASA medical approval.

**Cancellation Policy**

The £100 deposit is non-refundable. Any cancellation after **7 January 2019** will incur a charge of £200.00. Cancellations within 6 months of the departure date will be charged at 50% of the total cost. Any cancellation within 12 weeks of departure will be charged at full cost. This cancellation policy is non-negotiable.

If you would like your daughter to participate in this trip, please complete and return the permission slip overleaf to the Finance Office by **Friday 5 October 2018**.

Please remember that a place on any school trip is subject to your daughter's continued good behaviour. In exceptional circumstances a place on a trip may be withdrawn, in which case any monies paid will be refunded in full. If you have any further queries regarding this trip please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

*Mr. K Gornall*

**Mr K Gornall**  
**Technology Department**  
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**NASA trip to Huston, Texas**

February ½ term 2021

I give permission for my daughter .....Form.....  
to take part in the above named trip. I agree to abide by the terms of the cancellation policy currently operated by the school, as detailed in the attached letter.

I enclose a payment of .....

I have paid by Parent Pay

Signed.....Date .....

**Please return the above slip to the Finance Office by Friday 5 October 2018.**