



VERITAS

SAINT MARTIN'S

*Catholic Academy*

# TRIP GUIDE

## RESIDENTIAL & DAY VISITS



## *Dear Parents and Carers*

Our mission at Saint Martin's is to enable pupils to "learn the best that has been thought and said", studying everything from ancient Greek literature in English to the most beautiful art that has been created. Part of this education is to provide pupils with opportunities to experience the world, develop deeper friendships with fellow students and have some adventures to remember.

Staff at Saint Martin's therefore happily give up their time and energy to offer a wide range of trips to suit different interests and budgets. There are trips across the UK, and from Italy to Iceland. This Trip Brochure is designed to give you an idea of the trips likely to be offered over the next couple of years in order for you to budget and select any that your son or daughter might be interested in.

This brochure will give you an insight in to the experience pupils can have, the time of year it will probably take place, the approximate price and the year groups it is aimed at.

Some financial support is available for Pupil Premium students for trips of a spiritual nature and for those trips that are directly linked to a subject the child is studying, if this is something that you could benefit from please do contact us to discuss the options.

Please note that all trips are provisional and may not take place every year.

As places will always be limited, attendance and behaviour will always be considered when a trip is oversubscribed.

When any trip is confirmed, you and your child will receive more information with plenty of time to save and plan.

Kind regards



**C Wright**  
**Principal**

# ALTON CASTLE RESIDENTIAL RETREAT

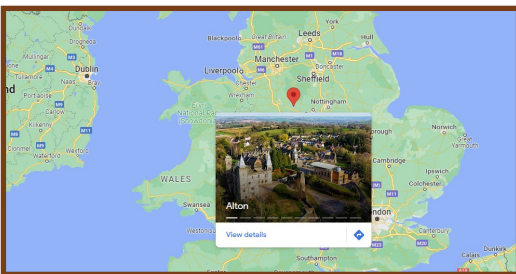
Year 8 pupils have an exciting opportunity to go on a residential retreat to Alton Castle retreat centre in the village of Alton, Staffordshire. Alton Castle is a Catholic Youth Retreat Centre which specialises in outdoor activities to encourage team building, friendships and provide a fun experience whilst also enabling pupils to grow more spiritually.

The retreat includes activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, survival skills and many more. It is a perfect time for team building, reflection, games, outdoor activities, prayer and social time and is all led by a fantastic team of people who are trained in leading both outdoor education sessions and spiritual retreats.

**Expected Dates:** January (Annually)

**Expected price range:** £240

**Trip open to Year group:** 8



# THE BRIARS RESIDENTIAL RETREAT

Year 7 are being offered the opportunity to visit The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre in Crich, Derbyshire. The Briars is the residential youth retreat centre for our diocese and not only offers a chance to get away from it all and relax, it also offers students chance to reflect, learn more about themselves, their friends and faith in a fun, interactive and light hearted environment.

It is a wonderful chance for students to get to know one another, as well as staff in a fun environment. You can find out more by visiting [www.ndcys.com](http://www.ndcys.com).

**Expected Dates:** November (Annually)

**Expected price range:** £250

**Trip open to Year group:** 7



## BARCELONA—FOOTBALL & NETBALL

The trip consists of 5 nights, 6 days to Barcelona. This is selected on regular boys football and girls netball players only. The trip includes 2 days coaching, along with matches and tournaments. Also included is a beach day, trip to Port Aventura theme park and a full day sightseeing in Barcelona.

**Expected Dates:** Every 2 years in April

**Expected price range:** £900

**Trip open to Year groups:** 8 & 9 (regular boys football and girls netball players only)



## CONDOVER HALL—FOOTBALL RESIDENTIAL

JCA Condover Hall activity centre, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire. 2 night/3 day residential with a packed programme of activities including kayaking, high ropes, archery and much more. Students will compete in a football tournament against other schools at nearby New Meadow (Shrewsbury Town football stadium).

**Expected Dates:** June (annual)

**Expected price range:** £280

**Trip open to Year group:** 7 football teams



# ICELAND

This is an exciting opportunity for students to gain knowledge and understanding of the world and the tectonic processes that shape our landscape. This trip is especially suited to those studying Geography at GCSE.

This 5 day residential offers the chance to visit the land of Fire and Ice where there are so many fascinating landmarks to see and activities to experience.

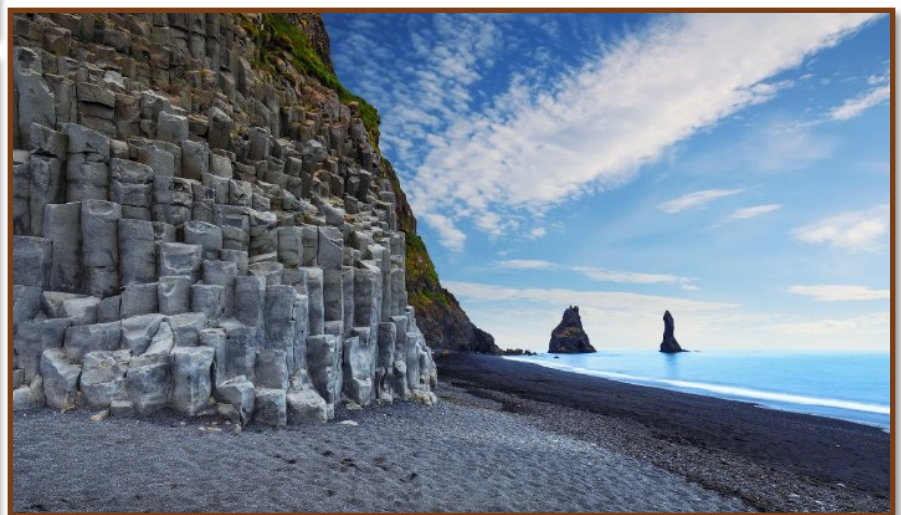
The tour will include the following outings:

- The Blue Lagoon
- Whale Watching Boat Trip
- Hvergerdi Geothermal park
- Reykjavík
- The Golden Circle: Thingvellir National Park; Geysir Geothermal Area; Gullfoss Waterfall
- The South Coast: Seljalandsfoss Waterfall; Skogafoss Waterfall; Solheimajokull Glacier; Dryholaey Coastal Features; Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach and Vik
- Reykjanes Peninsula: Bridge Between the Continents; Stampar Crater; Gunnuhver Hot Springs; Krysuvik Mud Puddles; Reykjanes Lighthouse; Natthagi Valley viewpoint to view the Fagradalsfjall lava flow

**Expected Dates:** October TBC

**Expected price range:** £1200

**Trip open to Year groups:** 10



## PGL NETBALL WEEKEND

Netball Tournament weekend to a PGL run centre. Travel by coach with a stop off The weekend comprises of team building activities, PGL activities, social events and a full netball tournament run by All England Netball on Saturday and Sunday.

**Expected Dates:** Annually

**Board:** Full board

**Expected price range:** £250

**Trip open to Year groups:** 7 (regular netball players only)



## PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

This Pilgrimage to the City of Rome is a wonderful opportunity for our Religious Studies students to visit The Vatican and its museums, the Catacombs, the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and a guided tour of Rome. This will be an amazing experience and will give your child first hand interaction with the Religious Studies GCSE curriculum.

The 3-night trip includes flights, accommodation, breakfast, evening meal, excursion entrances, the use of a coach in Rome and Travel Insurance.

**Expected Dates:** June (Annual)

**Board:** Breakfast & Evening meal

**Expected price range:** £750.00

**Trip open to Year group:** 9



# PLAS GWYNANT OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL

Plas Gwynant Outdoor Education Centre is located in the Snowdonia National Park, near to Beddgelert, North Wales. Visit the centre's website for more information

<https://www.sandwellresidentials.co.uk/our-centres/plas-gwynant-outdoor-education-centre/>

Students undertake a 5 day outdoor pursuits course. The cost of the course includes transport to and from the centre, full board, all activities undertaken, use of equipment and insurance. A range of activities are delivered by highly experienced and qualified staff from the centre. An extensive programme of activities may include, mountain walking, canoeing/kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, gorge walking, orienteering, team building activities, beach exploration and mine exploration.

**Expected Dates:** May (annually)

**Trip open to Year 9**

**Expected price range:** £460



## POLAND & GERMANY

This is a joint History and Divinity trip, a two stop residential trip to Berlin, Germany and Krakow, Poland.

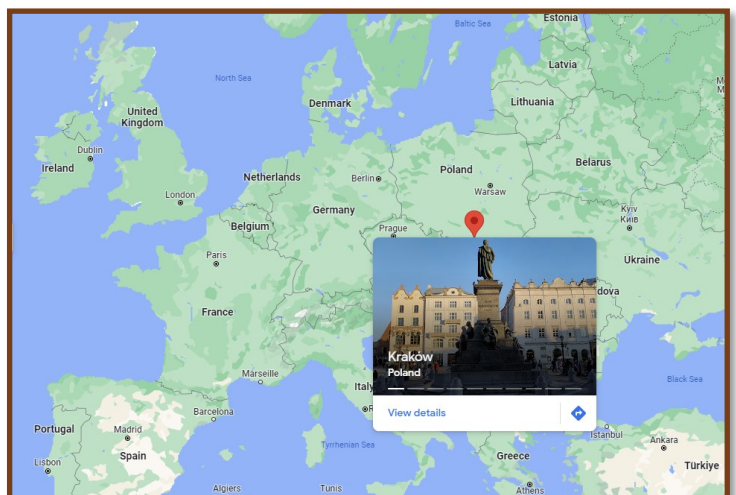
The trip is predominantly a focus on the Holocaust. Our provisional itinerary will include a guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a visit to Schindler's factory and John Paul II Museum, as well as a trip to the Wieliczka Saltmine, which is a UNESCO world heritage site in Krakow. In Berlin we will visit the Berlin Wall, Sanssouci Park and Potsdam, the Pergamon Museum as well as the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. From a History perspective this trip will complement the study of Germany and the Cold War at GCSE; students will be able to see the impact of extreme ideologies on Europe. In terms of Divinity this trip will enhance the understanding and awareness of the persecution of the Jewish people in preparation for the Jewish paper 3. It will also impact and support pupils understanding of Good and Evil and Life and Death topics.

**Expected Dates:** June (annually)

**Board:** Half board

**Expected price range:** £1000

**Trip open to Year group:** 10



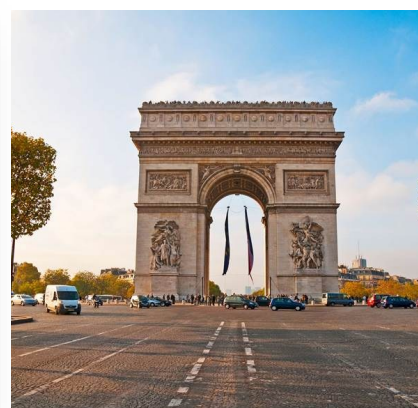
# PARIS

The Paris trip is aimed at current Year 8 GCSE Art and French students, giving them the opportunity to experience French culture, language and art first-hand. Students will visit some of Paris' most iconic landmarks, including Notre-Dame de Paris, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Sacré-Cœur, as well as the artists' district of Montmartre and the renowned Musée d'Orsay. The trip also includes a day at Disneyland Paris. Students will stay at the MIJE Hostel near Saint Paul Metro, with breakfast and evening meals provided daily, including meals at a traditional crêperie and pizzeria.

**Expected Dates:** February 2028

**Trip open to Year 10**

**Expected price range:** £800



# SOUTH AFRICA

The South African adventure offers students the opportunity to experience some of the country's most breathtaking landscapes, wildlife and history. The trip would begin in Cape Town, including visits to Table Mountain and Robben Island, where students will learn about the life of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's journey to democracy. The tour would then continue along the famous Garden Route, taking in spectacular scenery and coastal wildlife. Students would also experience an African safari, with opportunities to see animals in their natural habitat, alongside visits linked to penguin and shark conservation projects. The trip aims to combine adventure, culture, history and environmental education in an unforgettable experience.

**Expected Dates:** February 2028

**Expected price range:** £3000

**Trip open to Year group: 9 & 10**



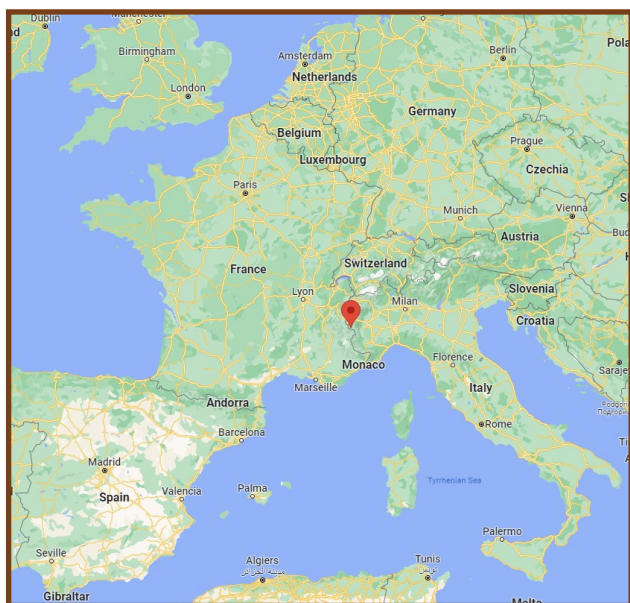
# SKI TRIP

A week-long trip that has 6 days of skiing. 5 hours a day along with many après ski activities. Flying from a nearby airport avoid long transfers. In January 2025 we will be going to Alpe d'Huez which boasts many runs of all levels green-black. We take all ability groups no previous skiing experience needed as we also book the snowdome for taster sessions.

**Expected Dates:** January (Annually)

**Expected price range:** £1000—£1100  
(depending on flight costs)

**Trip open to Year group:** 10



## OTHER TRIPS & DAY VISITS

We have various other visits during the year, that are either free or of a minimal cost, including:

- The National Gallery for Year 9 GCSE Art Students / February
- Tate Modern and Tate Britain or The National Portrait Gallery for Year 10 GCSE Art students
- Geography Fieldwork visits to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire and Hinckley Town Center / May
- Twycross Zoo / October
- Wisely Gardens / September



## YEAR 7 TRIP TO LONDON

This trip provides an opportunity for all students to visit the Capital to view key historical sites; to enhance their understanding of British democracy and history; to learn about science and the natural world; and to experience great art. .Students have the opportunity to choose from 4 options.

Places we have visited in the past:

Natural History Museum  
Science Museum  
Albert Hall  
Albert Memorial  
Victoria & Albert Museum  
Walk to Buckingham Palace & Trafalgar Square, Downing Street  
National Gallery  
Houses of Parliament Tour & Workshop on Representation & Voting

**Expected Dates:** May/June (annual)

**Expected price range:** £30



