



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Literary House Party 2017

I am delighted to be able to invite your son on the English Department's inaugural Literary House Party. The trip will take place Friday 24 – Sunday 26 November, 2017. We very much hope that as many Sixth Form English students as possible will attend as the trip will significantly enhance the A Level and International Baccalaureate courses. We would also like to encourage boys studying other subjects, especially Art, History and Geography, to join us for what will be a very multi-disciplinary experience.

We will visit some of the most dramatic scenery and fascinating literary properties in the country. Basing ourselves in Thomas Hardy's Wessex, we will discover much about the novelist and poet's life and writings. Working with staff at the Dorset County Museum will offer opportunities to explore artefacts, manuscripts and exhibits about Hardy, Lawrence of Arabia, Sylvia Townsend Warner and William Barnes. There will also be visits to Hardy's birthplace, Jane Austen's cottage in Chawton and Gilbert White's famous garden in Selborne. The chance to walk in the New Forest and relax at our hostel base in Weymouth should make for a relaxing exeat and set us all up for the busy run-in to the Christmas holidays.

The cost of the trip is £140 per boy. We will depart from school at lunchtime on the Friday. The boys will need warm and waterproof clothing, as well as stout footwear. We will arrive back in Bedford around 6pm on the Sunday. All meals apart from lunches on the Saturday and Sunday will be provided. A full trip risk assessment will be carried out and we are confident that all the activities on offer will be safe, accessible and interesting for the pupils.

Our house party will offer a fascinating and enjoyable weekend with time to learn, read, relax and be creative. Although there will be workshops and discussions related to the A Level and International Baccalaureate courses, our aim is primarily to broaden the boys' cultural horizons and develop their love of reading and writing. The homely atmosphere of our accommodation at Bunkhouse Plus will allow for fun and restful evenings.

Should you wish your son to attend, please may I have completed copies of the enclosed forms and payment of a £60 deposit returned to me by Friday 22 September. Payment may be made by cheque (payable to **Bedford School Trust Central Bank**) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer, for which the details are as follows:

Account name:	Bedford School Trust Central Bank
Account number:	22046229
Sort code:	40-10-02

A full itinerary, kit list and the opportunity to indicate any dietary requirements will be provided nearer the time. Should you have any queries regarding the expedition, please do contact me (nhopton@bedfordschool.org.uk) and I will be glad to provide further information.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Hopton
Head of English

Enc.:

Bedford School Trip booking form
