

Secondary School

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Friday, 4th September, 2015.

Y9 Field Trip to Kuşadası, Efes and Pamukkale. September 28th to October 2nd 4 nights, 5 days

Dear Parents,

Pleasingly our field trip to **Kuşadası** and then **Pamukkale** will go ahead. Our tours and hotel bookings are now secured. I thank you for your monetary contribution that enabled this to happen and share with you here the itinerary of our five day four night field trip. May I remind you that we will continue to use Pos Turizm, a tour company which BISI has worked with for many years. Should you wish to research this agency, you can find more information on their website, www.posturizm.com.tr. During the trip we will be accompanied by a POS guide and a POS representative to ensure all runs smoothly and to interpret or assist when required.

Day 1: Departing from outside the Zekeriyakoy campus at **05:30** or the OPET garage in Maslak at **06:00**. Breakfast on coach. An approximate 10 hour journey before arriving at our designated hotel in Kusadasi for an evening meal and rest. There will be frequent rest stops planned along the way for lunch and toileting.

Evening in hotel for rest and orientation.

Day 2: Breakfast at the hotel followed by a trip to the Ancient City of Efes, including Efes Archaeological Museum and home of Mother Mary. Possible visit to Selçuk Castle. Return to the hotel for evening meal and rest.

Evening in Kusadasi – harbour walk & shopping.

Day 3: Breakfast at the hotel then day in Aqualand. Return to the hotel for evening meal and rest. Anyone not wishing to go to the aquapark can enjoy an alternative supervised excursion. Evening in Kusadasi – trip to castle, walk around the harbour and souvenir shopping.

Day 4: Breakfast at the hotel then leaving for Pamukkale. Lunch in Travertenler (with mud bath) then onto the Ancient Cities of Hieropolis and Aprodiasias. Return to hotel for evening meal and rest.

Day 5: Breakfast at the hotel then leaving for Istanbul. Arrive Istanbul mid evening.

Our hotel, the four star **Batıhan Beach Resort** in **Kuşadası**, is unchanged. Their website is www.batihanbeachresort.com. Students will share secure rooms and be housed most probably in threes or fours. No rooms will be mixed. Teachers' rooms are located on same floor or nearby. Each room is equipped with essential facilities. Alcohol, if any in minibars, will obviously be removed before students enter rooms. Our all-inclusive deal offers a superb selection of food that, I am sure, will cater for all our dietary needs. Should special arrangements need to be made please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Our one night stay in Pamukkale is at the **Polat Thermal Hotel**, a five star accommodation that promises to provide the continued comfort we shall be used to from our stay in Kuşadası. The website for this thermal spa hotel is: www.polathotel.com.tr. Again, students will be organized into rooms of three or four depending on availability or arrangement. Security is taken seriously and teachers will be equally vigilant.

Might I advise you pack the following for all our excursions:

- Identity – ikamet, identity card or passport (I will take charge and responsibility for these and they will be kept in hotel safe or with me when travelling)
- Sun cream, sun hat and beach shoes
- Appropriate summer clothing
- Swimming kit – including goggles and cap
- Appropriate walking shoes
- Beach towel
- Toiletries
- Reading book/s
- A warm jumper for evenings
- Some pocket money and appropriate wallet or purse

Electronics, such as iPads, iPods, digital cameras and smart phones, may be brought to the trip, but misuse, overuse, or risk to self and/or others will result in them being taken away from students until a more appropriate time can be found to return them. The school and POS Turizm will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to these items. Reading books, card games and puzzles would be better welcomed and appreciated needless to say. Please do not allow your child to bring an excessive amount of pocket money on trip. Funding enough for small souvenirs, drinks and the occasional snack is enough no doubt.

Before the trip my contact number will be shared to you and your child. During the trip you can expect two fairly detailed and anecdotal accounts of the day from myself which the school will deliver to you by SMS text. I will also use this to inform you of our estimated time of arrival as we make our way back to Istanbul on the Friday to minimize your waiting time at the two collecting pick-up points.

By filling in the medical form attached to the previous letter regarding this trip I have all the information I now need to move forward. There are many questions you may still have, however. As this may be the case, a meeting after school next week, **Thursday 9th**, would be a good opportunity to meet myself and possibly a few of my trip colleagues to ask questions. If nothing else, it would provide you a brief insight into who will be taking charge of your child for the week.

Should you have any queries and require additional information before this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With sincerity and best regards,



Russell Gunnell,
Head of English, and Y9 trip leader.