



Our Ref: NMP/DFX/FMY

March 2026

Selected Year 9/10 Parents & Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Dormston School New York Trip - October 2026 – March 2026 Update Letter

We hope you and your families are well. Thank you for any continuing payments made so far for the New York 2026 trip. Time is moving forward quickly and although October seems a long way off, it will be here before we know it! There is still lots of organising going on by the tour company NST – we are at the stage of organising when communication becomes more frequent as we receive updates and require further information for the trip. This letter outlines further details.

Passenger Information

As outlined in a previous letter, flights have been secured for our trip. However, we are now required to start collecting information that is required by the tour company in order to allocate seats on these flights to particular pupils – at this stage passenger information is required. **With this in mind, please could you complete the form on the below Microsoft Forms Link. Please could this be completed by Friday 15th May 2026 before half-term.**

[New York Trip - October 2026 - Passenger Information – Fill in form](#)

The questions are taken directly from the form sent by NST – please contact us if there are any problems.

Passport validity

If your child does not yet have a passport it would be a good idea to apply for one as we will be working to strict deadlines set by NST and any delays may cause problems, or even having to miss out on the trip.

“If you are visiting the USA your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. You don’t need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.”

ESTA Visa Waiver

In order to travel to the United States of America all passengers require either an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) visa waiver or a visa to enter or transit the USA as a visitor.

Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is an automated system used to determine the eligibility of visitors to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and whether such travel poses any law enforcement or security risk.

ESTAs should be applied for prior to travel.

With this in mind please could you apply for your child’s ESTA prior to the Parent Meeting in September. Please bring the copy of the ESTA with you to the meeting – we will keep this along with your child’s passport.

Please apply for your child's ESTA using the following link:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

Requirements

Passport holders from the UK or other eligible countries can travel to the USA under the Visa Waiver Program by obtaining an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). It is equivalent to a visa but no stamp or label will be placed in your passport. Once issued it is valid for 2 years or until your passport expires whichever is sooner and allows multiple visits to the US. From 1st April 2016, anyone travelling to the US under the Visa Waiver Programme (WVP) will need to have a passport with an integrated chip (an ePassport). British passports issued since October 2006 are ePassports and carry [this internationally recognised symbol](#) on the front cover. It is the responsibility of each traveller to obtain the necessary documentation to satisfy the US immigration authorities. Please note that an approved ESTA is not a guaranteed admission to the United States at a port of entry.

Please refer to [this help link](#) for further information including details of countries eligible for the Visa Waiver Program. Passport holders from countries not included on the Visa Waiver Program will need to apply for a tourist visa.

Application timeframes

You must have obtained authorisation at least 72 hours before departure.

Application process

Online applications should be made by visiting the official US government site [here](#)

Please note the US Government charges for this application.

The current cost is \$40.27 per person, though this is subject to change.

Application advice from the US government

You can collect the information required and submit an application on behalf of each group member or you can request parents/guardians to submit their child's application online via the above link. We strongly recommend you ask parents/guardians to submit their application online as they will be more informed to answer some of questions relating to personal information and previous travel history etc.

We advise you ask parents/guardians to provide a printed copy of the ESTA approval once it's complete, so you have confirmation that the application has been made and approved. NST do not require copies of the approved applications.

Payment

To make a payment, please follow the [instructions given on the ESTA website](#).


Support during the application process

The [help area](#) on the ESTA website provides comprehensive information on the application process.

*CONTACT INFORMATION / ADDRESS WHILE IN THE US

You are required to enter contact information/address while in the US. Please use the following information:

HI New York City Hostel

 891 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10025

 1 (212) 932-2300  NewYork@hiusa.org

<https://www.hiusa.org/find-hostels/new-york/new-york-891-amsterdam-ave>

Screenshot of information:

U.S. POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Name *

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

Address Line 1 *

891 AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Address Line 2

NEW YORK 10025

Apartment Number

City *

NEW YORK

State *

NEW YORK

Phone Number is invalid.

Check this box to certify that this phone number is correct.*

Country Code *

UNITED STATES (USA) (+1)

Phone Number *

0012129322300

ADDRESS WHILE IN THE U.S.

The address where you will be staying in the U.S. is optional to complete the application. If multiple locations are planned, enter the first address. If the complete address is not known, enter the name of the hotel or location you will visit.

Is your Address While in the U.S. same as the U.S. Point of Contact Address listed above?

Yes No

Address Line 1

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

Address Line 2

891 AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Apartment Number

City

NEW YORK 10025

State

NEW YORK

Please contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

N Millership

**Mrs N Millership
New York 2026 Trip Leaders**

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