



Our Ref: NMP/KON

July 2026

Selected Year 9/10 Parents & Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Dormston School New York Trip – July Update

We hope you and your families are well. We would like to thank you for all payments made for the New York Trip 2026 now that the final payment date has passed. I am delighted to report that we have finally received the itinerary from NST tours and can provide an outline of what we will be getting up to when we are in New York.

**Friday 23rd October: 07:30 hrs Meet at school to load luggage ready for departure at 8:00hrs.
14.55 hrs – Flight departs. Arrival at JFK International Airport at 17:45 (local time)**

On a daily basis, buffet breakfast will be served at the hostel and bagged lunches will be provided.

The following activities have been confirmed during our time in New York:

- The Empire State Building
- The High Line
- Macy's and Bryant Park
- Battery Park
- The Statue of Liberty
- The 911 Memorial Museum
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Times Square
- Grand Central Station
- Little Italy
- Pier 35 and Pier 57
- Central Park
- Fifth Avenue

In addition to the listed activities, we will be having evening meals at the Hard Rock Café in Times Square and Il Piccolo Bufalo in Little Italy. We also usually visit a number of film locations when in New York, for example the Ghostbusters' Firehouse and we are also hoping to visit the Jelly Cat Diner where particular Jelly Cats are sold that are exclusive to New York.

Mr Fox is currently working on an information booklet which includes the full itinerary. This will be given out at the parental meeting in September (details below).

ESTA VISA FORM

All visitors to the United States of America require an ESTA visa to gain entry to the country at immigration/passport control.

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 options

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.

Flight information is as follows:

Luggage allowance

Virgin Atlantic Airways.
Each person on the flight will be entitled to:

Flights							
Departure Date	Departure Airport	Departure Time	Arrival Date	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time	Airline	Flight Number
OUTBOUND							
23/10/2026	Manchester International Airport	14:55	23/10/2026	John F Kennedy International Airport	17:45	Virgin Atlantic	VS 127
INBOUND							
26/10/2026	John F Kennedy International Airport	19:40	27/10/2026	Manchester International Airport	06:40	Virgin Atlantic	VS 128

Hand Luggage: One piece not exceeding 10 kg and no bigger than 23 cm x 36 cm x 56 cm including the handle, pockets and wheels

Checked Luggage: One piece not exceeding 23 kg and no bigger than 90 cm x 75 cm x 43 cm

This information was correct at the time of publishing; please check the airline's website for any further information.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We would also like to remind you that we will hold a Parent Information Evening on **Monday 14th September 2026 from 6.00pm to 7.00pm** in the Dormston School Theatre. It is very important that this meeting is attended along with pupils – other family members are also welcome to attend.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to meet the staff taking your child on the trip, ask any questions, and for us to go over the final travel arrangements and itinerary. We will give you a booklet containing all the information you will need,

Please can the following information and documents be brought with you to the meeting:

- Your child's PASSPORT;
- ESTA Number and printed copy of ESTA

- Parental Consent & Medical Information Form – these will be distributed at the meeting

Passports will be stored in the school safe until we travel. Photocopies of the above information will also be taken with us on the trip.

We appreciated this is a lot of information to digest so please contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

N Millership

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

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