Dormston SCHOOL
Knowledge is Strength

Our Ref: NMP/KON

October 2026

New York Trip Parents & Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Start spreading the news… we're leaving this week! There are only a few days to go - I hope everyone is as excited as we are!

This letter contains many important updates regarding the trip – please take time to read it carefully and contact us if you require any help or further clarification. Please also refer to the booklet issued at the parents evening for information about the trip.

OUTWARD TRAVEL
The coach will depart from Dormston at **8:00am promptly on Friday 23rd October 2026**. All students will need to **be at school for 7:30am at the very latest**.

Students will need to go straight to their group leader who will register them and supervise luggage loading. Please be mindful when parking that the coach will have to get up Mill Bank too.

IF ANY STUDENTS SUFFER FROM TRAVEL SICKNESS, PLEASE ENSURE THAT MEDICATION IS TAKEN BEFORE WE DEPART.

It is essential that if any students have prescribed medication, that it is brought with them on the trip and handed to their group leader. Pupils will not be permitted to travel if they do not bring this medication with them.

TOWELS
The NST rep has confirmed that towels will be provided by the hostel, so there is no need to pack one. This should leave some extra room in cases for souvenirs.

LIQUIDS
Liquids under 100ml each can be packed in hand luggage. There is no need for these to be in a clear bag and can be left in hand luggage when bags are scanned. Any liquids, aerosols and gels over 100ml must be packed in hold luggage as they will not be permitted through security.

SPENDING MONEY FOR THE JOURNEY
It is likely that when the flight departs, the meals on board will not be served until an hour or two into the flight. Please ensure your child has money to purchase food either from a service station enroute or in the airport itself.

POWER BANKS
In our information booklet, we recommended that power banks were not to be brought along because there are so many rules and regulations surrounding their use. However, we understand that some pupils may need to use them because their phones lose charge quickly. As long as power banks meet the conditions listed below, it is fine for them to bring a power bank along

This is what is published on Virgin Atlantic's website:

- a maximum of 2 power banks can be carried per passenger;
- all batteries and power banks must be in good condition with no signs of damage;
- spare batteries and power banks must be individually protected to prevent short circuits when not in use, by placement in original retail packaging or by insulating terminals (taping over exposed terminals or placing each battery/power bank in a separate plastic bag or protective pouch);
- they must be able to fit inside our onboard Fire Containment Bag (37 × 28 × 10cm) in the event of an emergency;
- **please keep them in an accessible place during your flight, not in the overhead locker;**
- **power banks cannot be plugged into your seat's power supply at any time;**
- **power banks cannot be used to charge other devices while onboard.**

PARACETAMOL
As confirmed at the parental meeting, in the event of your child needing pain medication (and if paracetamol consent has been given) a call will be made to parents before a tablet is administered. The only exception to this is if the paracetamol is needed during the night. In such cases the necessary checks would be made to ensure safe administration of the medication and parents would be contacted the following morning.

NEW YORK PUBLIC TRANSPORT
We will be using the New York public transport system (Subway) in order to cut down on walking while we are away, to maximise the absolute most of our time and provide the best possible experience for our pupils. We appreciate this was not factored into the original cost of the trip so please could pupils bear in mind that some spending money may need to be set aside for public transport – approximately $10-20 USD (approximately £7 to 15 GBP).

TIPPING
As you are aware the USA have a 'tip culture' where it is expected and customary to tip for services provided. We have factored in tips for most of our activities however there may be occasions when pupils feel they wish to leave a tip – we do not expect them to so this is entirely at their discretion.

We have been advised by NST that some situations may include:

- Hotel Maid: $1.00 per day per room'
- Toilet Attendant: $1.00 per person.

Our group evening meals already include service charge, so no tip is required.

WEATHER UPDATE
Below is the weather forecast for our time in New York – it looks like we will have nice weather! However please pack/dress accordingly – and prepare for rain just in case! We may be out during the evening when temperatures drop, so please ensure pupils are prepared for this.



EMERGENCY CONTACT
The staff mobile for parents to contact us in emergencies is 07517 753292. This is the same number we will ask students to save in their own phones too.

INSTAGRAM
Please follow our dedicated page on Instagram - follow us for updates and pictures while we are away: @dormstonnewyork2026

Many thanks for your continued support throughout the planning of this trip – particularly prompt completion of online information and forms. It has made the organisation process (over 18 months) much easier!

We hope your child makes the most of the opportunities and time in the city that never sleeps - and enjoys their holiday!!

Yours sincerely

N Millership, D Fox, F Moseley, L Rodgers, E Nicholls-Steed

New York 2026 Trip Leaders
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