



Founded 1125

9th January 2019

Dear Parents,

**WIDPSC April 2019
Toronto, Canada**

We have been invited to represent the United Kingdom in the 31st World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships, which will take place in Toronto, Canada from April 11th to April 17th 2019. We have a team of up to seven competitors and two coaches.

All of the competitors from Reading School are required to compete in all four disciplines. Preparation for the World Championships has involved considerable hard work and the boys will need to be committed. Competitors are required to compete in all four disciplines, debating, impromptu speaking, prepared speech and interpretative reading.

Prospective competitors are advised to think carefully about the investment they will need to make in terms of time, money and effort before committing themselves to this project. However, those who do participate will be in the company of some of the most talented young debaters and public speakers in the English Speaking world.

The educational visit will be led by Mr Steve Allen, who is experienced in leading educational visits including the WIDPSC events held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2018, Sydney, Australia in 2017 and Pittsburgh, USA in 2016. He will be accompanied by Mr Robson, who was a judge in the Grand Finals in 2015, 2016 and 2018. Mr Allen is a qualified first aider. The flights will be booked with STA Travel Ltd, St George House, 56 Peter Street, Manchester, M2 3NQ.

The cost of the programme, including registration and accommodation is \$1975 USD. At the current exchange rate, this would equate to £1250.

In addition, the cost of the international return flight from London Heathrow to Toronto, Canada would be approximately £750 plus Insurance and other Administrative Costs (£30) to bring the total to £780. Once you are committed to taking part, we will require the registration costs to be paid by 31st January 2019 and the flight costs to be paid by 1 March 2019.

The total cost for the trip will be £2030

Under the Education Reform Act, the costs of the visit must be met by voluntary contributions. The visit can only take place if the parents of all participating pupils are prepared voluntarily to meet the full cost. There is no obligation to pay the voluntary contributions, but we must make it clear the trip will not take place if parents are reluctant to support it as there are no other funds available to finance the trip. Cases of financial hardship will be dealt with sympathetically and confidentially by the school. Please contact me on the email address below if your son has now been randomly selected to participate.

The following are included in the cost of registration:

- Accommodation: six nights' accommodation. Double occupancy for students at the Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel, 90 Bloor Street East, M4W 1AZ.
- Most meals
- Most activities and excursions including a dinner at the CN Tower, half day trip to Niagara Falls and student dance party.

READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

T: 0118 9015600

F: 0118 9353505

E: headspa@reading-school.co.uk

W: www.reading-school.co.uk

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.

Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.



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- Airport transfers in Canada.
- All transport costs in Toronto

The address of the school hosting the event is: Branksome Hall, 10 Elm Avenue, Toronto, ON M4W 1N4, Canada.

You will appreciate that the school has no control over the tour operators, hotels and other organisations involved. By reserving a place on the tour you and your son accept that the School has no responsibility for the default of the tour operators or other organisations and that in the event of an Act of God or any other circumstance whether involving health and safety, security, behaviour or otherwise, the School can in its discretion curtail, cancel or revise the tour at any time without recompense.

We hope your son will be able to join us on this exciting trip. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at ARobson@reading-school.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

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Preliminary Schedule

Thursday 11th April

- 3.30pm Registration Opens
Tours of Branksome Hall Campus and refreshments
5.00pm Opening Ceremony and Welcome Dinner

Friday 12th April

- 7.00am Breakfast
8.30am Judges and competitors briefing
9.00am Interpretive Reading Round 1
11.15am Impromptu Speaking Round 1
12.30pm Lunch
1.15pm Judges and competitors briefing
1.30pm After Dinner Speeches/Persuasive Speaking Round 1
4.00pm Group Photos
At Leisure Dinner

Saturday 13th April

- 7.00am Breakfast
8.30am Competitors and coaches meeting
9.00am After Dinner/Persuasive Speaking Round 2
11.15am Interpretive Reading Round 2
1.15pm Judges and Competitors Briefing
1.30pm Debate Round 1 Flight A
3.15pm Debate Round 1 Flight B
5.00pm Impromptu Speaking Round 2
6.30pm Depart for dinner at CN Tower
9.00pm Return to Hotel

Sunday 14th April

- 7.00am Breakfast
8.30am Judges and Competitors Briefing
9.00am Debate Round 2 Flight A
10.30am Debate Round 2 Flight B
12.00pm Niagara Falls Outing (includes packed lunch on bus and dinner in Niagara Falls)

Monday 15th April

- 8.00am Breakfast
9.30am Announcement of Finalists
10.00am Debate Motions for Finals
10.30am Finals
2.00pm Self-guided Explore Toronto (Part 1)
6.30pm Worlds Annual General Meeting (coaches/staff) and Dinner
6.30pm Dinner and Dance Party (Students)

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Tuesday 16th April

8.00am Breakfast and Announcement of Grand Finalists
9.30am Self-guided Explore Toronto
12.30pm Lunch at Hart House (University of Toronto)
2.00pm Grand Finals at Hart House (University of Toronto)
6.30pm Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Wednesday 17th April

Depart for Toronto International Airport

Arrive London Heathrow – Evening

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Please return to: Mrs J Sudra, Educational Visits Administrator in the School Office or via the post-box situated outside Reception by no later than Friday 18th January 2019

Toronto, Canada WIDPSC April 2019
Dates: Thursday 11 to Wednesday 17 April 2019

Student Name **Form**

I consent to my son attending the above trip to Toronto outlined in the above letter.

I have received a copy of the **Code of Conduct**. I agree to my son participating in the Toronto trip as detailed and subject to the conditions in the attached letter.

I will pay £2030.00 using my credit/debit card via Reading School's online payment system, Scopy in two instalments as detailed below:

£1250.00 by Thursday 31st January 2019 registration and accommodation
£780.00 by Friday 1st March 2019; (Flight / Admin Price (non-refundable));

- I enclose a photocopy of my son's passport. (Please state if **not** a British passport holder)
- I enclose the Code of Conduct for Educational Visits
- When did your son last have a tetanus injection? **DATE:**
- I agree to staff on the activity giving permission for my child to have any medical treatment that the medical authorities think necessary. I undertake to inform the School of any changes in my child's fitness or health prior to departure.

Any Medical/Dietary/Allergy information

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I confirm that the details supplied on the Generic Consent Form have not **changed/please amend details** on the generic consent form as follows:

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These are **permanent/these changes** are for this visit only.

Parent/Carer Signature: **Date**

Please provide an e-mail address and telephone contact number for any correspondence regarding this visit is:.....