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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

10 March 2020

### Trip to Ellen Sharma School, India, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may know, Downlands Community School has had the unique opportunity of being partnered with Ellen Sharma School in Chennai, India, for over 10 years. Every three years, we successfully run a pupil trip to Chennai to further this partnership and immerse Downlands students in a completely different culture. Our next trip is scheduled to take place in July 2021. The trip is expected to run from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. However, this will be confirmed when we have flight details in September 2020. For current Year 9s, this will mean missing work experience week and for current Year 10s this will be after they have finished their final GCSE's.

Throughout the trip, pupils will be staying at 'Aloft Chennai', a four star hotel, 10 minutes' walk from Ellen Sharma. We will fly direct from Heathrow with British Airways. During the week, pupils will spend time within the school, taking part in workshops and teaching lessons. Further to this, there will be some excursions to local temples, arts villages, a crocodile sanctuary and Chennai beach.

The cost of this trip is expected to be £1500. However in previous years, parents have received partial refunds after the trip as it is difficult to determine the final cost for a trip such as this. This will include all meals, accommodation, flights, excursions, insurance, gifts to the school, a t-shirt for the week and a pre-trip meal in Brighton to give the group a chance to meet before the trip. Not included in this cost are vaccinations, UK airport transfers and the Indian travel visa which must be applied for individually by parents.

This trip is an incredibly valuable experience for pupils and in the past has inspired numerous pupils to return to the school in their Gap Years/later life. However, it is also a huge privilege to be representing the school and with this comes some responsibility. Pupils who are interested in the trip must write a letter to me, Mr Smith, outlining why they would like to attend this trip. They should consider how it would benefit their current and further study (the trip proves especially useful for Geography, Religious Studies, Art & Child Development students). Furthermore, pupils attending the trip are expected to engage with the school partnerships both prior to and after the trip. This can include leading assemblies, writing to pupils in India, writing reports for local press, filming a promotional video and visiting local primary schools in Sussex.

If your child would like to attend this trip, you should return the below reply slip **with their letter to Mr Smith by Monday 20 April 2020**. At this point, we will then chose pupils and inform successful applicants by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please do not send any monies until we have confirmed places. We will then ask for a £200 deposit to hold their place by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. After this a payment plan will be put in place, with a total amount of £750 needing to be paid by the end of September in order to book flights when they become available.

If you have any questions about this trip, please contact me on [msmith@downlands.org](mailto:msmith@downlands.org).

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Smith  
International School's Coordinator





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**Please return to the Trips Box, FAO Mr M Smith by Monday 20 April 2020**

**India 2021**

Student: ..... Tutor Group: .....

I would be interested in my child attending the 2021 India Trip and should they be successful, will make payment of £200 by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

*The school has taken out a School Journey Insurance Policy underwritten by AIG Insurance Plc for each pupil attending this activity, though claims arising from a pre-existing condition are exempt. The policy includes fixed levels of benefits in respect of Personal Accident and Personal Property. A copy of the policy schedule is available upon request. Any claim made under this policy does not affect your statutory rights.*

*In respect of legal liability please note the school cannot be held responsible for any loss unless negligent.*

Signed: ..... (Parent/Carer)

