

from the Headmaster
Andrew Tardios LL.B. (Hons), B.A., (Hons), Cert. Ed.



St. John's Senior School

North Lodge, The Ridgeway, Enfield.

Telephone: 0208 366 0035
Email: stjohssc@aol.com
www.stjohnsseniorschool.com

also:
ST. JOHN'S PREP. SCHOOL
The Ridgeway,
Potters Bar,
Herts. EN6 5QT.

8th December, 2014.

Dear Parents,

Optional School Trip to GREECE.

Dates: Saturday, 16th May to Thursday, 21st May 2015. (6 days, 5 nights)

Below are the details of our proposed trip to Greece. After you have read them would you kindly complete the slip at the end of this letter and return it to your form teacher by **Friday, 12th December, at the very latest please.**

As in the past, I expect to be the lead teacher during this trip.

*Our trip to Greece is a holiday for the senses
and the imagination.*

6 days, 5 nights.

Cost: **£685 per pupil.**

What is included in the price?

- Return air fare (British Airways).
- Comprehensive group travel insurance.
- Coach transport to all locations in Greece.
- Hotel accommodation (double & triple sharing) with **half-board (breakfast & one meal a day)**.
- All entry fees to all points of interest e.g. sites or museums.



We expect to stay at the following hotels: **Hotel Apollon** in Tolo (1 night), **Hotel Neda** in Olympia (1 night), **Hotel Europa Beach**, Galaxidi (1 night). These are the hotels in which we stayed last year. They were excellent - clean plenty of food for the boys and girls. Last year's hotel in Athens,

(2 nights), was well below standard. This year, the agency has found us a much nicer hotel, but it has not yet been confirmed.

Not included:

Food other than that which comes with the **half-board** arrangement stated above.

Spending money.



**You know what this means! →
Yes, swimming! (Unless it is too cold, although we
have never yet had a problem.)**

What are we going to see?

- **Athens:** But not for too long - maximum two days. We shall see the:

The **Parthenon** on the Acropolis.

Major locations in the city and some **shopping**.

Certain interesting nooks and crannies which I know from my own exploration. (I used to take British coach groups on guided tours of Greece in my younger days).



From a previous trip to Greece (At the Parthenon.)

- **Delphi:** In many people's view, this has the most *beautiful* setting of any site in Greece - high up in the hills of Mount Parnassus. Here was the greatest of the Greek *oracles* situated in what the ancients believed was the centre of the world and the home of the god Apollo. No words can really capture the *magical* atmosphere of Delphi. In the stadium above the Oracle I usually have a chance to organise a re-creation of the ancient races and the heroes will be our pupils.



One of the sites at Delphi. Magical atmosphere.

- **Ancient Corinth:** We shall pass over and stop at the **Isthmus Canal**. A breath-taking example of human achievement. It is a spectacular sight. A canal cut straight down through deep limestone. Sometimes you can see a great big ship passing through the canal with what looks like only inches to spare on either side.



- The open air **Theatre of Epidaurus**. Seating for an audience of 18,000 and yet so constructed that one can hear the sound of a 10p being dropped in the centre stage. If you stand in the middle, even those sitting on the seats at the outer edges can hear you *breathing*. Incredible! This puts our modern day achievements in perspective.
- **Mycenae:** There have been two sites which I can say fit the description “*truly awesome*” I would give the second prize to the Batu Caves in Malaysia, but the first prize would be for Mycenae.

Everything about **Mycenae** has a dramatic impact on the senses. Go back 2,500 years and the city of Mycenae was swarming with the bronze age Greeks. It was from here that **King Agamemnon** called upon the Greeks to follow him to war against Troy and to bring Helen back. It was here, on his victorious return, that he was murdered by his wife **Klytemnestra** and then avenged by his son and daughter followed by guilt and madness. (*Don't expect too much moderation in Greek tragedies!*)

The great stone walls and the ruins of Mycenae’s ancient palaces can be restored in our minds with knowledge and imagination! We shall help the pupils to see the city as it was - and re-enact an episode from its history.

- **Olympia:** The site of the original Olympic Games, the most famous games in history. The first games on record took place in 776 BC, which is approximately 240 years short of 3,000 years ago. For those with a *sense of time*, it will be quite a moment to set foot on the same ground as an ancient Greek. In fact, most of those of whom we read about in ancient history would have come here - either as spectators or participants. The Greeks believed that here, at Olympia, was the special sanctuary site for all the Greek gods and their king, Zeus!

In the weeks before we leave for Greece, I shall ensure that the pupils know something about the background to the sites that we shall be visiting. Also, the children will learn some basic Greek words as well as a Sirtaki dance to get them in the mood.

Any pupil who cannot come to Greece will be well looked after here at the school. Meaning – constructive revision lessons following a virtually unchanged timetable, with the exception of a

nice day out to a destination as yet undecided.

If you do wish to come, then please confirm by filling in the slip below and let your Form teacher have this together with a **non-refundable deposit of £80 by Friday, 12th December**, at the very latest please. The remaining sum will be payable in **two equal** parts:

Deposit:	£85	<i>by Friday, 12th December.</i>
2nd Payment:	£300	<i>by Friday, 30th January.</i>
3rd and final Payment:	£300	<i>by Thursday, 5th March.</i>

Please note that on receipt of your deposit, the school will go ahead and confirm the booking arrangements with our travel agency. From that point, the school is committed to paying them the **full amount**. We have to make this position clear, because in one previous year I failed to do so and when a parent withdrew (after paying and accepting the loss of the *initial* deposit) the agency obliged the school to make up the difference. This is particularly annoying since the school always subsidises the Greece and most other trips to help keep the cost down to a reasonable level. Therefore, please be aware that when you sign the slip below you are committing yourselves for the *full* amount even if you have to cancel at some point later.

(Of course, no payment at all will be required in the event of the trip being cancelled for reasons outside our control e.g. political or economic turmoil in Greece. All our bookings are covered by ABTA).

Mr. Andrew Tardios, (For any queries, please feel to contact me: atardios@aol.com)
Headmaster.

Please keep this part for your records.

Name of Pupil: _____ **Form:** _____

*Please tick the appropriate box and return this slip to the Form Teacher by this coming **Friday, 12th December**, at the very latest.*

Not this time, thank you. I would like my child to remain at school. []

(Although the week's timetable will follow the lines of a normal week as far as possible, we shall, nevertheless, endeavour to introduce two interesting activities or visits for the children who prefer to stay at school.)

I confirm that I would like my child to go to Madrid and enclose a non-refundable deposit of £85. []

I also understand that the total cost for the trip to Madrid is £685.

Deposit:	£85	<i>by Friday, 12th December.</i>
2nd Payment:	£300	<i>by Friday, 30th January.</i>
3rd and final Payment:	£300	<i>by Thursday, 5th March.</i>

Signature of parent: _____ **Date:** _____

Please send this part to the Form Teacher by Friday, 12th December at the latest.

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