



Church of England School  
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Initial Announcement of A Level Physics trip to the CERN, Geneva, Switzerland – 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

To complement our A Level Physics course, we are planning to organise a visit to the CERN particle accelerator in Geneva, Switzerland. This visit not only directly supports material taught for the A Level Physics course but is a fantastic opportunity to experience world class research and engineering. In addition to experiencing the exhibits accessible to all CERN visitors, our visit will also include a lecture from an active CERN researcher who will then accompany us on a 'behind the scenes tour' of some of the infrastructure and experiments (like the manufacture of the superconducting magnets, or the anti-matter generator). In addition to this we hope to take advantage of being in Geneva and visit a watch museum and some of the other tourist attractions. The visit is completely voluntary however we believe that this will be a wonderful addition to your child's school experience.

Students will be accompanied by myself and Mrs Vishnoi. We both teach the A Level Physics course and know the students. We are planning to book this for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July (very early flight departure, probably from Luton) with return on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July (late afternoon) 2023. Students will be required to make their own arrangements to get to and from the airport. In previous years parents and students have coordinated shared transport arrangements.

CERN do not allow bookings more than 9 months ahead of attendance so I can not say with any certainty at this stage whether the visit will go ahead. Assuming we do manage to secure the booking with CERN, we would then look to book the flights and accommodation as soon as possible. This would mean a non-refundable deposit will be asked for before the end of November 2022 to secure each student's place.

A passport with at least 6 months of validity and relevant visas will be required for the trip. (CERN spans Switzerland and France.) You must inform me at the time of booking if travel will be on a non-UK passport as additional paperwork is required.

The tour company we use for this visit is currently estimating a cost of **approximately £500** per student. (If you have been granted funds from the school's "Sixth Form Bursary" then you may apply to have an element of the trip costs be met by this fund). The trip cost will cover return flights, bed and breakfast accommodation in a hotel (2 students per room), use of public transport during the stay, one evening meal (Thursday's) and travel insurance. All other food and drink will need to be paid for by the students at the time of purchase. Geneva has a very high cost of living, and students will be encouraged to use the local large supermarket for all other food and drink. All school rules and policies will apply to this visit, including no purchase or consumption of alcohol.

This visit has previously been limited to Year 12 students. Given the many opportunities lost due to Covid I would like to extend the invitation to Year 13 students as well this year. I will need to limit numbers and therefore will give priority to Year 12 students.

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One of the reasons for writing this letter now is to gauge interest in the visit. Please speak to your son/daughter and if you would like to express an interest in your child attending the trip, please complete the **expression of interest** form via this [link](#) by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, [tjackson@bishopramsey.school](mailto:tjackson@bishopramsey.school)

Yours sincerely,

**Dr T Jackson**  
**Head of Physics**