

Dear Parents/Carers,

27 November 2023

On behalf of Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), I am delighted to share exciting details about the upcoming trip to Miami in 2025. You will be aware that OAT has over 40 academies and as Lead Practitioner for Science, I have the pleasure of working across many of them.

You may have already received information about the Miami 2025 trip from your child's academy, but I wanted to share some further exciting information with you. After some further thought, we are delighted to advise that we will now include year 8, so the invitation is now open to current year 8, 9 and 10 students.

Miami 2025 will be a 6-night residential trip to Miami, Florida. We will be leaving in late June/early July 2025 and staying for 6 nights in this fantastic city – aiming to be in the US on the 4th of July to experience the Independence Day celebrations. During our time in Miami, students will take part in a range of activities, which could potentially include working with Miami Dade College, exploring the Everglades National Park, visiting Miami Beach, touring the Kennedy Space Centre as well as engaging in many more local attractions. All activities are provisional and will be confirmed prior to the trip.

The guide price per student for the trip is £2000, which would be paid in monthly instalments, with the first monthly payment of £125 being received by 28 January 2024. The price will include accommodation, all meals, all transport from the agreed meeting point, and all planned activities. We will be leaving from London Heathrow International Airport, and it will be the responsibility of parents/carers to provide transport for their child to and from the airport.

This trip is being run by OAT, and not by your child's academy. For this reason, you should be aware that if your child is awarded a place on the trip, they are likely to be travelling with students from other OAT academies and members of staff who are less familiar than their normal teachers. However, there will be lots of opportunities for students to meet the team and each other virtually in advance of the trip.

Prior to the trip, children will need to have their own passport and will also need to have applied for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation). Unfortunately, any child that has a criminal record or has previously been denied entry to the US will not be eligible and will therefore not be able to come on the trip.

If your child is interested in applying for a place or if you have any questions, please email me directly at mark.lee@ormistonacademies.co.uk and I can arrange a telephone conversation if required.

Application forms will need to be completed and returned **by 8 December 2023**. Each application will then be reviewed, and conditional offers will be sent to successful applicants by 14 December 2023.

Please note that submission of an application does not guarantee a place on the trip, as places are limited. Final confirmation will follow first payment in early 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mark Lee
National Lead Practitioner for Biology

