

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are seeking expressions of interest for students who would like to attend a Visual Arts tour to Italy in March/April 2026. This is an open invitation to all current Year 8, 9, and 10 Visual Art students (students will be in Years 10, 11, or 12 upon the year of the trip). The tour will be especially beneficial to those intending to undertake the ATAR Visual Art course. The tour is an incredible opportunity for students to immerse themselves in Italian culture and develop their Visual Arts skills and knowledge.

When:

The proposed dates for the tour are 21 March to 2 April 2026, with the trip lasting a total of 13 days. The intention is to provide students with opportunities to improve their knowledge and understanding of historical contexts, as well as to develop painting and drawing skills that will be beneficial in the years ahead. There will be a minor interruption to the school term, with students travelling during the last week of Term 1 and returning during the school holidays.

Where:

The tour will provide students with the opportunity to explore a variety of well-known galleries and sites in Italy with an itinerary that begins with three nights in Rome, then continues on to Florence for five nights, and finishing up with two nights in Venice. Students will also visit places like Tuscany and Pisa on day trips. A full outline of the locations and activities can be viewed on the 'Proposed Itinerary'.

Why:

The history of western art is an important aspect in the study of Visual Art especially in Year's 10-12. Students draw on their understanding of European social and cultural contexts in the analysis of artworks from pre-modern to modern art. Some of the greatest collections in the world of pre-modern art are on display in galleries and museums around Italy, including the Uffizi Gallery, which is host to works by artists such as Botticelli, Giotto, Cimabue, Michelangelo, da Vinci and Raphael.

Students will have the opportunity to see art in the country of its conception. To see this art in person gives students a greater understanding of the techniques used by the artists. Students will learn some of these techniques in practical lessons and will walk where the artists walked as they visit the actual sites that inspired many of these historical paintings.

Cost:

It is expected that the trip will cost \$8900 per student (based on 15 students), however the current quote is based on 2024 prices/currency exchange rates and is subject to change. This cost includes the following:

- Breakfast and dinner
- Accommodation
- Flights
- Transport throughout the tour

- Entry fees to various locations
- Travel insurance
- Tour jackets
- City tax.

Not included:

- Lunch
- Individual spending money
- Passport/visa costs.

Students will be expected to purchase their own lunches and are encouraged to carry a minimum of \$300 for this. This price has been calculated based on the average cost of a sit-down, hot meal and drink each day. If an application is successful, a non-refundable deposit of \$2200 per student will be required by February 2025. The full payment will be collected in quarterly instalments over the course of the 2025 school year.

Whom:

Visual Art students who are currently in Year 8, 9, or 10 and are in good standing with the College are invited to register their interest in the tour. Those attending the tour should be studying Visual Art at Swan Christian College at the time of the tour and should be intending to study art throughout their remaining years at the College. Students wishing to attend should be achieving a C grade or higher in Visual Art.

Please complete the attached *Expression of Interest* form and return by Friday 13th September 2024 (Term 3). Should the level of expression of interest forms indicate that the tour is viable a parent information evening will be held in Term 4 2024.

*Note: Students who are not currently taking Visual Art may also wish to express their interest in the tour. Whilst preference will be given to those undertaking the Visual Art course, additional places may be offered to students with outstanding applications.

If you require further information, please contact one of the Visual Art teachers by email on cherie.mongony@swan.wa.edu.au/nicole.tonkin@swan.wa.edu.au or by telephone on 9374 8300.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Mongony
Visual Art Teacher