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Dear Parents and Guardians

McElwee Travel Scholarships 2019 Extended Travel Awards (Lower Sixth only)

I am writing to you all on behalf of the McElwee Trustees to ask you to encourage your son/daughter to consider making an application next term for a McElwee Travel Scholarship.

Bill McElwee was an inspiring History teacher at Stowe for thirty years from 1932 to 1962. Following his death in 1978, many of his former pupils donated funds sufficient to support a number of annual travel awards to help Lower Sixth Stoics to visit a site of historical and cultural significance in Europe. Over the past thirty years, over 250 Stoics have been awarded a McElwee Scholarship and have visited almost every country in Europe. The Award provides Stoics with the opportunity to travel somewhere new, face challenges, explore and enjoy both their independence and responsibility. In September of the Upper Sixth Form, the Stoics have a formal dinner with the Trustees to discuss how their expeditions went and then make a presentation to Lower Sixth historians.

The Travel Scholarships are for travel in Europe for a trip of approximately five to seven days in the summer holidays, with individual grants up to about £1400.00. Applications have been open since November and should be submitted to Mr Griffin by **8pm, 7 January 2019** and must be well researched, illustrated, budgeted and educationally sound. These are then shortlisted, forwarded to the Trustees and the winners announced during the Lent term. More specific details are available below.

Stowe is very fortunate to have this Travel Scholarship, which has provided both pleasure and challenge to Stoics for thirty years. We hope that many more generations will benefit in the future and that there will be a large number of applications from the Lower Sixth this year. Please encourage them to complete their application, which I know many will have started work on already.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffin



Stowe

The William and Patience McElwee Travelling Scholarship Fund

Background and Introduction

The McElwee Travelling Scholarship was established in 1979 in memory of William (Bill) and Patience McElwee. Bill was a History Tutor at Stowe for many years, but both had given much of their time, energy and attention to generations of Stoics who were fortunate enough to benefit greatly as a result.

A small group of Old Stoics and other friends appealed for funds to provide a Travelling Scholarship to be awarded to two or more Stoics in their final year at Stowe, which would enable them to travel anywhere in Europe during the summer holidays to study some aspect of European culture or history.

The Award

Candidates for the McElwee Scholarship are invited to justify their use of the award in an explanation of the theme of their travel, the relevant cultural information (history, geography, artistic), day by day itinerary and budget for travel, hotel and related expenses. The written proposal should be submitted on the History section of StoweNet by **8pm, 7 January 2019**. Proposals should not be lifted from the internet or guide books but written in the candidates' own words, with a bibliography of books consulted.

Entries will be studied by a small team at Stowe with recommendations made and then further considered by the Trustees of the McElwee Travelling Scholarship. The announcement of successful award winners will be made during the Lent term.

Scope

The Scholarship is open to all Lower Sixth Form Stoics who should conceive a plan for travel within Europe. Journeys further afield will not normally be considered. Pupils should contact Mr Griffin if they are considering a trip to another destination. A record of the journey with photographs should be kept so that a presentation can be made to the School during the Michaelmas term.

Except in certain circumstances, Stoics should aim to travel in pairs for greater interest and security and for a duration of between five and seven days.

Emphasis

The purpose and destination chosen should have a strong emphasis on culture and/or history, art or art movement, architecture, the work of an individual painter or sculptor or possibly music or a cultural civilisation, as opposed to a trek or physically exacting programme.

Florence and the Renaissance, The Chateaux of the Loire, Vienna and The Hapsburgs, Santiago de Compostella, Minoan Crete, The Battlefields of the First World War, The Journey of Garibaldi, The Romans in Tunisia, William Kent and the Grand Tour, The Holocaust, Moorish Spain, Guggenheim are all good examples of successful and interesting journeys made over the past twenty years.

Value

Prize money amounting to over £100,000 has been given to over 250 Stoics in the past thirty years. The number of awards is usually restricted to eight (four projects and journeys) dependent on merit.

Insurance

It is important that parents or guardians should purchase some form of travel insurance to cover the particular journey. Stowe School cannot be held responsible for any accident or injury to any prize winner as they will be travelling independently and unsupervised by any School authority.

