

Hugh McRoberts Rugby Tour 2020 UK – Ireland

1. The purpose of our tours

- Benefits to the student - Inclusion
- Skill development as a player
- Educational value

Benefits to the rugby program – Growth and success

2. Where have we gone?

From 2002 to 2012 our fixtures have included:

In England:

- St. Edwards School, Cheltenham
- King's School, Macclesfield (Cheshire)
- Mid -Sussex U-18, Haywards Heath
- Sandbach School, Sandbach (Cheshire)
- St. Anselm's College, Birkenhead

In Wales:

- Pontypridd and Bryn Celynogg schools, Pontypridd

In Ireland:

- The Highschool of Dublin

In Northern Ireland:

- Belfast Highschool
- Larne Grammar School

Excursions: Cardiff, Millennium Stadium, 6 nations rugby match Big Pitt Mining Museum in Blenaevon, Conwy Castle, Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, Liverpool and the Beatles tour, Chester, Brighton, Iron Bridge Gorge, Dublin city, Bru Na Boinne geo-historical site, Antrim Coast including Giant's Causeway and Dunluce Castle, Belfast city murals, Surfing in Port Rush, Leinster and Ulster schools Cup rugby finals, Stratford upon Avon, London City.

3. **Proposed dates for 2020**

The tour will be a 2 week trip, departing mid March and will include the spring break period which will help minimize TTOC costs. The specific dates will be announced once the 2019-2020 district calendar is published.

Tentative Fixtures for 2020

Pontypridd, Wales; Dublin, Ireland; Larne, Northern Ireland; Birkenhead, England

Proposed excursions: Big Pit Mining museum, Cardiff city, Newgrange and Dublin, Carrick a Rede and Giant's Causeway, Liverpool, Chester, Stratford upon Avon, London

4. **Costs**

The tour cost is approx. **\$3000 - \$3300 CDN**. Included in the cost:

- Return airfare
- AIF and other applicable taxes
- Ground transportation to and from all venues
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Two nights hotel accommodation in London with full breakfast and dinner on day two
- Complete tour attire
- Sightseeing excursions (entry fees)
- Training clinics and professional games entry

Accommodation in each venue: Billeting by host families

Meals: Typically, host families provide two meals per day

Supplements: Participants will need to budget for one meal per day (lunch), a small gift for each of the host families (recommended), and spending money.

Contingency: The tour cost incorporates a contingency for hostel accommodation in the event of last minute billeting complications.

5. **Application procedure**

Once you've made your initial deposit, you will receive a simplified application package that includes

1. Tour behavioral expectation
2. Parental contact information sheet including email address
3. Medical information and dietary requirements form
4. Free time consent form
5. School board consent forms

6. **Initial deposit**

The initial deposit due of \$100 will be accepted immediately.

7. **Subsequent deposit deadlines:** TBA

8. **Refund Policy**

McRoberts is expected to make various bookings and reservations with deposits well in advance. Any withdrawals from the tour must not result in increased costs to other participants. Additionally, the trip must remain cost-neutral to the school

- All deposits made prior to airfare and ground arrangement bookings will be fully refundable if there are insufficient numbers of participants.
- Refunds are possible for airfare and for parts of ground arrangement. However, we have to abide by the airline and ground travel company policies and timelines. As with any trip, please understand that they will present deadlines for cancellations beyond which payments made will not be fully recoverable.
- Tour kit is a custom order for each player. This cost is also not recoverable

9. **Methods of payment**

Payments are being accepted immediately. Initial deposits are to accompany signed forms listed above. You are welcome to make regular installments and to use post-dated cheques if you wish.

Payment should be made by cheque, payable to **Hugh McRoberts Secondary** and submitted to

Mr. Clemente
c/o Hugh McRoberts Secondary
8980 Williams Road
Richmond. B.C.
V7A 1G6

Please write your son's full name, his student # and "2020 rugby tour" on the cheque's memo line.

Account information will be communicated to you as part of your general student fee assessments. We will also send out payment deadline reminders in anticipation.

10. **Minimizing costs**

- Fundraising activities – ex. Gift basket raffles, poinsettia sales.
- We would invite parents to participate on a fundraising committee

11. **Communication with parents**

Notification letters and/or emails will be sent regularly. You may also check the school website for updates.

Please be sure to provide all your contact information on the contact form. Prior to departure all students and parents will receive a complete itinerary and contact list. We will also have a dedicated tour blog set up for daily updates.

12. **Subsequent information meetings**

There will be at least two additional informational meetings including the final pre-tour gathering in late February 2020. Parents and students are expected to attend.

Specific dates and times for all meeting will be communicated by email.

Additional questions and answers

Should you have any additional questions, comments, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact Mr. Clemente @ 604-668-6600 or by e-mail jclemente@sd38.bc.ca