



**11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Dear Parents / Carer

**Year 7 Trip to the Opal Coast, France (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025)**

I am delighted that your child has expressed an interest in the proposed trip to France next summer, departing in the early hours of the morning on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and returning in the evening on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. This 4-day coach trip includes a short sea crossing from Dover to Calais; this will be the base for our programme of activities and excursions with a 3-night stay in Calais, before returning via the same route.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to get a glimpse of France and to put their linguistic skills into practice. As well as being educational, however, the trip also offers a fun and exciting experience. The precise details of the programme will be finalised in coming months, but it is likely to include visits to a typical French bakery and a snail farm, a trail through the old town of Boulogne, and a trip to a theme park.

The cost of the trip will be **£499**. This will include all travel to and from school and throughout the trip, full board accommodation in France, full insurance cover, all excursions and entrance fees and an allowance for emergencies. It does NOT include meals on the outward and return journeys or pocket money. **In addition, all students will require their own passport for this trip.**

For this particular trip the school may be able to provide a subsidy to students who are currently in receipt of free school meals. If applicable, please contact Mr Lillington at school as soon as possible to discuss.

The school party insurance is comprehensive and covers personal accident, medical treatment, loss or damage to personal effects, cancellation due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, and other standard risks. A copy of the policy will be made available at a later date to parents of students participating in the trip.

Those students wishing to be part of this trip should bring the completed slip (see bottom of attached form) to the **Finance Office** by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**. By this same date, please also pay an initial **deposit of £100 using the online payment system** (the initial deposit amount is based on tour company requirements and is needed to secure our booking). If this short deadline causes particular problems, please contact me directly as soon as possible. Likewise, if you are unable to use the online payment system, please contact the Finance Office for assistance or to make alternative arrangements.

Further payments (using the online payment system) are then required as follows:

20 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	£50
20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	£49

**It is anticipated that demand for this trip may exceed the number of places available.** In the event of this happening, names will be “drawn out of a hat”. Therefore, receipt of the deposit must not be taken as a guarantee of a place. Students will be informed whether or not they have a place before the half term holiday, and deposits will be returned where appropriate. We have operated this system for many years now, and believe it to be the fairest way of allocating places. **Please do not allow your child to bring in a deposit if you are not happy with this.**

**VERY IMPORTANT:** May I stress that should your child take up a place on the trip, this will be taken as a firm commitment. In the event of a student withdrawing from the party (or leaving the school before the trip departs), **a refund of monies already paid can normally only be given if cancellation is covered by the terms of the insurance.**

Finally, for Health and Safety reasons students who have (or later develop) a record of poor behaviour in school may not be permitted to participate in this trip.

There will, of course, be a meeting for all parents/carers and students concerned shortly before the trip departs next year. In the meantime, if you have any immediate questions regarding the visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Rosillo  
Trip Leader