



9th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carer

Year 7 Trip to the Opal Coast, France (Friday 25th – Monday 28th June 2027)

I am delighted to tell you that we are planning to run a trip to France next June for students in Year 7 studying French. The trip will depart late evening on Thursday 24th June 2027, returning in the evening on Monday 28th June 2027. 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 **£545**. 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.

Please note that **students will require their own passport for this trip**. This must be valid until at least 29th September 2027 to meet entry requirements. (If your child is not a UK national, please also check any visa requirements before applying for a place).

For this particular trip, the school may be able to provide a subsidy to students who are currently in receipt of **targeted** free school meals (i.e. with an annual household earned income of no more than £7,400). Please see the end of this letter* for details of recent changes to FSM eligibility. If eligible, please contact the Finance Office as soon as possible to request a subsidy.

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.

If you wish to apply for a place for your child, please complete the electronic consent form on Scopay and pay an initial **deposit of £100** (also on Scopay) by **Monday 21st September 2026**. It will not be possible to accept applications after this date. If this 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.

Further payments (using Scopay) are then required as follows:

20 th October 2026	£60
20 th November 2026	£60
20 th December 2026	£60

20 th January 2027	£60
20 th February 2027	£55
20 th March 2027	£55
20 th April 2027	£55
20 th May 2027	£40

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read carefully before applying for a place for your child

- In the event that demand for this trip exceeds the number of places available, names will be “drawn out of a hat”. Therefore, payment of the deposit must not be taken as a guarantee of a place. Students will be informed as soon as possible whether or not they have a place, and deposits will be returned, where appropriate. We have operated this system for many years and believe it to be the fairest way of allocating places. **Please do not apply for a place for your child if you are not happy with this.**
- In recent years, we have had an increasing number of students who enroll on a school trip but then later decide that they no longer wish to take part. May I stress that, should your child take up a place on this trip, this will be taken as a firm commitment. **In the event of a student withdrawing from the trip (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.**
- Payments must be made on time in accordance with the schedule above to avoid your child’s place on the trip being put at risk.
- 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 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

***Recent changes to free school meals eligibility**

Subsidies for school trips and other activities are only available to students in receipt of “**targeted free school meals**”, where the annual household earned income is £7,400 or less.

Unfortunately, the school is unable to provide a subsidy for students who receive free school meals under the recently introduced “**expanded free school meals**” programme (for all families in receipt of Universal Credit with an annual household earned income of more than £7,400). This is because we do not receive any additional funding for these students (beyond the cost of a daily meal).