



2nd December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Trip to France - Friday 30th June to Monday 3rd July 2023

The Piggott School is planning a Year 8 trip to France, staying at PGL's Chateau de Grande Romaine near Paris. This is an excellent opportunity to visit a different European country and to experience the culture at first hand. School residential visits also promote student independence and encourage interaction in social situations.

The group will travel by coach to their destination, either via the Channel Tunnel or by ferry. The accommodation is full board. Each day will comprise various excursions and visits, expected to include the following:

- Bateaux Parisiens (boat trip)
- Explore Paris (coach tour)
- Full day at Parc Astérix theme park
- En-route hypermarché visit

The cost of this trip is expected to be approximately **£430-450** per student. This covers travel, full board accommodation, excursions, staff costs, administration and comprehensive travel insurance through the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (details available on request). We need a *minimum* of 120 students to run this trip at this price. If there is insufficient interest, the cost may increase, or the trip may not take place. Please note that the school may be able to support with the funding of the trip for those in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium, or in cases of severe financial hardship. Please email Mrs McDonald mcdonaldl@piggottschool.org should you wish to request financial assistance.

We have an extremely tight deadline for sending your payments to the travel company to secure our booking, and we are therefore asking for an initial deposit of **£100** to be paid by **9th December**. If paying the full deposit by this date is not manageable for you, please pay what you can now and contact us to request a payment extension, as we are usually able to accommodate this when arranged in advance. The full balance of the trip will need to be cleared by March 2023 and a payment schedule will be put into place for those who wish to spread the cost over the forthcoming months.

If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please make the deposit payment as detailed above and complete the form on the following link by noon on **Friday 9th December** at the latest: [ONLINE SIGN-UP FORM](#)

There up to 190 places available. In the unlikely event that the trip is oversubscribed, we will need to move some students to a waiting list by means of a random draw. If your child is not allocated a place, any deposits received would be refunded in full. In exceptional circumstances we reserve the right to not consider applications from pupils where there are concerns that their conduct may compromise the safety of the trip. This situation is extremely rare, and decisions would be made by the pastoral leads and the senior leadership team as appropriate.

Since the pandemic and Brexit there have been some changes to international travel rules. Please do read the additional notes at the end of this letter to see how these may affect your child. *Responsibility for ensuring a student's eligibility to travel rests with the parents.*

We are very much looking forward to visiting France again, and hope that your son/daughter will be joining us.

Yours sincerely

V Knopp

Mrs Victoria Knopp - knoppv@piggottschool.org

Further Information

Your child's eligibility to travel remains your responsibility. There have been many changes to international travel since both the pandemic and Brexit, and we must therefore bring your attention to some of the relevant issues for your consideration. This means that you must be aware of the following:

- Your child must have a valid passport with sufficient validity remaining on it and you are responsible for checking entry requirements and restrictions, particularly those for non-UK passports. Should a visa/ ETIAS be required, you will be responsible for obtaining one. To check travel requirements, please visit: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- If eligible, your child should have a GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). The GHIC arrangements replace the old EHICs. If your child is eligible for a GHIC, but does not hold one, then our insurance will not cover the costs of any medical treatment that would have been provided for free had a card been used. Please note that if your child has a valid EHIC, it can continue to be used until it expires. For further information visit: www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/
- If any testing (such as a PCR) or certification is required at the time of travel, you will be responsible for any additional costs involved and for ensuring your child has the correct documentation in the format required for travel. This applies even if no such requirements were in place at the time of booking.
- If any country that we are travelling to, or transiting through, requires passengers to be fully vaccinated then our insurance will not cover the cost of cancellation for any unvaccinated passengers if there has been sufficient time to obtain the required vaccinations. Unless your child holds a medical exemption, choosing not to vaccinate would be considered as 'disinclination to travel'.
- If a period of self-isolation or quarantine be required either by the destination country, or the UK upon return, we would not be covered for any associated costs such as quarantine in a government approved facility or loss of earnings.
- We will closely monitor and follow all travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Local rules can sometimes change at very short notice. We are fully insured for cancellation and curtailment arising from changes in travel rules if our trips are booked in accordance with travel rules in place at the time of booking. Parents must be aware that while we will endeavour to give you the most accurate information available to us, any subsequent changes are out of our control and do have the potential to disrupt the trip and affect its cost, therefore your flexibility and understanding of this is appreciated.

Whilst away, all students are expected to behave to a very high standard, as laid out in the School Behaviour contract. If prior to the trip departing, it becomes apparent that an individual student's behaviour is unacceptable at School, thus causing us concern, you will be contacted. We reserve the right to withdraw a student from the trip if we believe their behaviour would have a detrimental effect on the rest of the party, or that their own safety and welfare may be at risk. We would endeavour to find a replacement student and then all monies may be refunded, subject to an administration charge. If, however, we were unable to find a replacement, the initial payment and any incurred cancellation charges, would not be refunded.

Should your child voluntarily withdraw prior to the trip, or you are unable to continue payments, you would lose the initial payment, and any payments already made would be used to cover cancellation charges, the balance being refunded, unless their place can be filled by another student.