



## Study Visit to France 29<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

During the first week of May, a 5-day residential visit to France was organised for pupils in Y8. This well-established visit was a great success and, for that reason, it is our intention to offer a **similar** visit in the Summer Term of 2019. This continuing initiative is intended to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to involve themselves in the reality of using and understanding the language and widening their knowledge of French culture. This is an **optional** visit, but I must emphasise that it is a study visit and students will be expected to complete French language work during our stay, as well as be open to new experiences and be willing to try different foods.

We have decided to visit a different centre next year, which we hope will offer more opportunities for the students to use their French in authentic situations. The group will be staying at the *Château de Grande Romaine*, in Lésigny, 20 miles South-East of Paris. The *Château*, which dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, is run by the renowned company PGL and has been recommended to us by staff from other Middle Schools in Staffordshire, who have stayed there. The *Château* is set in 70 acres of land with playing fields, boules pitches and even a heated outdoor pool (this will only be open if the weather is good enough). I would recommend that you have a look at the *Château* on the PGL website (<http://www.pgl.co.uk/>) under Secondary Schools Trips to see everything it has to offer.

The emphasis will be on maximising pupil exposure to the language, so we will be following PGL's Languages Detectives Course (again details of this are on the PGL website). Activities will include: study modules; interviewing the public; collecting information and purchasing food items at a market, with which the children will prepare their lunch back at the *Château*; visits to a local chocolate factory, a snail farm and bakery. We aim to go on excursions to places of interest near the *Château*, such as the historic town of Provins with its medieval shows, the *Château de Fontainebleau* and the Vimy Ridge Memorial. Please note we will **not** be visiting Disneyland Paris. We also do not intend to walk around central Paris, although we may take a night tour of Paris by coach, or take the children on the Bateaux Parisiens (boats on the Seine) in the evening. If we do one of these excursions, I can assure you that all the students will be kept together, completely supervised at all times.

We will spend one afternoon taking advantage of some of the outdoor activities available on site at the *Château*, such as abseiling, zip-wire and archery, in addition to activities organised on site in the evenings, such as boules competitions and crêpe making. The final itinerary will be confirmed at a later date. At the *Château de Grande Romaine* the children will be accommodated in en suite dormitories for 4-8. The site is self-contained and is safe and secure.

The total cost will be £525. The price includes travel by coach and ferry, accommodation, **all meals**, excursion and activity costs and insurance, but excludes the cost of a passport and pocket money (though





personal spending opportunities will be quite limited). Please note that the children **WILL** require their own passport for this visit.

The maximum number that the Château can accommodate is **55 students**, accompanied by 6 staff. In the event of more than 55 students wishing to go, we will need to have a selection process. Having discussed with Mrs Tyler and Mrs Frost the fairest way to select participants, we have decided to ask the students to apply for their place on the visit. Allocation of places will be based on students' application form, attitude to their language learning in school (not attainment levels) and their behaviour. We firmly believe that this is a fairer way than first come first served or drawing names out of a hat.

If you are interested in securing a place for your child, please ensure that they return their application form to me by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July**. After this date, I will let you know if your child has been allocated a place on the visit and then a deposit of £60 will be payable by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**. This deposit is non-returnable once a place is allocated. All payments should be made through Parent Pay. An interim payment of £70 is required by PGL by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Final payment of the balance will be due by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and you may, if you wish, pay in instalments to be specified once places have been allocated.

For the enjoyment and safety of all those involved, it is important that every pupil is willing to adhere to a well-defined code of conduct during the week away. Ultimately, therefore, **we are only prepared to include those pupils who demonstrate good standards of behaviour in school prior to the visit.**

I would also like to mention at the outset that the children are **not permitted** to take their mobile phones on this visit. This is standard practice for residential visits and we really appreciate parents' support on this issue. We will, of course, be accessible by phone and we will maintain regular contact with parents during the visit.

If you have any questions regarding the visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. L. Wilson  
Head of MFL





## Y8 visit to France 29<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

I would like my child to be considered for the above visit. I confirm that he/she has submitted an application form to Mrs Wilson. If he/she is allocated a place on the visit, I confirm that I will pay the deposit of £60.00 via Parent Pay, which is non-returnable, by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**.

Child's Name:.....

Class:.....

Signed ..... (Person with Parental Responsibility)