

Dear Parent/Carer

October 2019

### ***Year 7 German Study Visit 2020***

As you may be aware a central part of the Year 7 experience for our students is the study visit to France or Germany. The purpose of the visit is to develop the students' language learning, to broaden their European understanding and to foster interpersonal and social skills.

Due to the numbers involved, we decide which tutor group will go to which country and your son/daughter's tutor group will be going to Germany.

Travel dates will be approximately **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020** to **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**, dependent upon tunnel crossings. The dates will be confirmed once we have the total number of students signed up. During their stay, they will take part in a number of trips including Burg Eltz, Phantasialand and a boat trip on the Rhine to Koblenz. Students are accommodated in a centre that specialises in catering for school parties.

The trip is organised through National Schools Travel (NST) and the group will be accompanied by modern languages staff as well as teaching staff at a minimum ratio of one member of staff to twelve students. Students will be supervised at all times and we will hold a Parents' Meeting early in the Summer Term **which you must attend in order for your son/daughter to participate in the visit**. Important details for the visit will be discussed and you will receive an itinerary of the trip with an emergency contact number and a copy of our insurance documents.

NST have provided us with detailed information on a no-deal Brexit <http://www.kingsmead-school.com/letters/all yrs/2019/Brexit.pdf> Please follow the link if you wish to view this document.

### **Students will travel on their own passport and will need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).**

Please make sure these are either ordered early or check the expiry dates on your existing passport and EHIC. The EHIC is **free** if ordered through [www.nhs.co.uk](http://www.nhs.co.uk), other websites may charge. Names as they appear on the passport have to be submitted to the tour company by the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. ***Please note this is very important information for when we book the tickets. If there are any discrepancies with the ticket name and the passport name when checking in at the ferry terminal, you will be charged a minimum of £60 to change the name or students will not be able to travel.*** If you need the passport and EHIC for the May half term, we will take a photocopy and return them to your son/daughter but must insist they are returned to the finance office on your return as we keep all passports and EHIC in the school safe until day of departure, where the party leader keeps hold of them for the duration of the trip. All passports and EHIC will be returned to your son/daughter just before arrival back at Kingsmead on the Thursday.

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It is our aim that every Year 7 student who wishes to participate in the study visit should be able to do so. However, depending on numbers wishing to participate, it may be necessary to allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, as it will only be economically viable to run full coaches. The trip can only go ahead with sufficient numbers. We consider the safety of each child as paramount and therefore if we have any concerns that your son/daughter's behaviour might jeopardise the safety of the group, they will be unable to take part. If we feel that this will be the case for your child, we will discuss this with you.

The cost of the Study Visit will be dependent on numbers, see schedule below, based on current fuel and exchange rates. The cost includes travel to and from our destination by executive coach and shuttle, full board, travel insurance, all excursions and entrance fees. **Not included** in the price is drinks other than water at mealtimes and any spending money for souvenirs, postcards etc. We do have a very strict monthly payment schedule that we have to adhere to from NST. We must have your final payment by **1<sup>st</sup> May 2020** please as we have to process the final settlement to reach NST by 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020. Late payments will incur additional costs. If a student withdraws from the trip, there may be a cancellation fee charged by NST.

GERMANY	Students			
	50-54	65-75	76-95	96-113*
Total Trip Cost	<b>£461.50</b>	<b>£454.50</b>	<b>£431.50</b>	<b>£451.50</b>
1st non-refundable Deposit 15th Nov	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
2nd non-refundable Deposit 16th Dec	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
Jan 1st	£ 60.00	£ 60.00	£ 60.00	£ 60.00
Feb 1st	£ 76.50	£ 75.00	£ 75.50	£ 70.00
March 1st	£ 75.00	£ 75.00	£ 66.00	£ 75.00
April 1st	£ 75.00	£ 74.50	£ 65.00	£ 75.00
May 1st	£ 75.00	£ 70.00	£ 65.00	£ 71.50

- *96-113 price has increased due to the coaches not being full*

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in this trip please log on to your parent pay account and pay the non-refundable deposit by **11am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. We must have the deposit payment by this date to enable us time for confirming numbers to the tour company. Once we have sufficient numbers to run the trip we need to make payments to our providers, therefore the only refunds available are if we have insufficient numbers for the trip to run or for medical claims. Medical claims will require a doctor's letter and are then processed through our school visits insurance. If at any time the Foreign Office state it is not safe to travel, NST will either offer a suitable alternative if available or a full refund if a comparable alternative cannot be found. The school has very limited resources to support trips and we depend on parents' voluntary contributions to finance such visits. If your son/daughter is eligible for Free School Meals or if you are on Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal or Child Tax Credit and are unable to meet the whole cost, please contact the finance office.

In the past our Study Visits have been most enjoyable and successful, and students have returned full of enthusiasm and ready to take on the next steps in language learning. I hope therefore that you feel that the Year 7 Study Visit will be a valuable experience and that you can give it your support.

Yours sincerely

Kim Davies  
Leader of Learning MFL