

Summer 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The Modern Foreign Language and geography departments are delighted to be able to offer pupils currently in year 7 and 8 the exciting opportunity to visit the wonderful Christmas markets in Lille, France. The trip will (provisionally) run from **Monday 11th December 2023 (leaving school at approximately 11.45pm) until Wednesday 13th December inclusive.**

The purpose of the visit is to provide fun and exciting activities allowing pupils to be immersed in French culture.



During the trip, pupils will visit Boulogne, prior to arriving at our private chateau and on the Monday we will spend the day in Lille where pupils will be given the opportunity to wander around the beautiful Christmas markets. We will return to school the following day.



Accommodation will be in a private chateau, reserved solely for our pupils. The chateau is set in a rural location 8km east of St Omer and within easy reach of the port. Chateau d'Ebblinghem has 4 hectares of private land and also has indoor facilities including pool tables, arcade games and an air hockey table. Meals will be on a half-board basis; pupils will be provided with breakfast and evening meals. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to advise staff of any special dietary requirements as soon as possible. Travel will be by coach and channel crossing. Pupils will require some spending money in Euros in order to buy additional snacks, food at the Christmas markets and of course any souvenirs they wish to bring home. Staff cannot be held responsible for any money brought by pupils on the trip.

The full cost of the trip is **£268**, this is based on 50 pupils attending the trip. If 40 pupils confirm their place then the price will be **£284**.

The price of the trip includes travel insurance for each pupil, however it is important to note that as we are leaving the country pupils will need to be in possession of their own valid passport and EHIC card. Please note: if your child has an EHIC card then it is valid until its expiry date; the GHIC card is the up to date version and if your child does not currently have a valid EHIC then they will have to apply for this. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that pupils are in possession of one of the cards as they are unable to travel without one. The card covers emergency medical needs whilst travelling in Europe and is free of charge. Pupils who do not have a British passport may require a visa to enter France; **this will not be covered by the cost of the trip and will have to be arranged separately by parents/carers as soon as possible.**

Places on the trip are limited to a maximum of 50 pupils and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you wish to secure your child's place on this trip, please complete the attached consent slip and medical form and return it to school along with a non-refundable deposit of **£75** by no later than **Monday 26th September 2022**. The final balance can then be paid in weekly or monthly instalments by cash or by logging into your child's 'Wisepay' account. The final balance will be due in full on or before **Wednesday 13th September 2023**. Forms and deposits should be placed in a sealed envelope with your child's full name and form on and handed in to the school's finance office. Please make cheques payable to Smithills School.

Once deposits and numbers are confirmed a full parent/carer information evening will be organised. In the meantime if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the trip please contact us at school. If we do not have enough pupils to make the trip viable then we will of course return any monies paid.

COVID 19: The current guidance for entering France is for all children aged 12 or over to be double vaccinated. This may well change given that the trip does not take place until the end of 2023. We will be keeping an eye on restrictions.

Pupils who wish to join us on the trip will be subject to approval by senior staff and trip leaders. **We will continually monitor pupils who are on the trip and if staff are at all concerned about behaviour or other issues which arise then they will be removed from the list.** Behaviour points are reviewed weekly and this will also be the case during the autumn term in the weeks leading up to the departure date. **We will be unable to return any money if a decision is made to remove a pupil from the trip.**

Yours faithfully

J Pacer *R Moulton*

Mrs Pacer and Mrs Moulton

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**MFL/GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LILLE DECEMBER 2022. PLEASE RETURN TO THE FINANCE OFFICE BY:
Monday 26th September 2022**

Pupil's name: Form:

I give my consent for my child to go on the above trip. I enclose a deposit to the value of £75, which I understand is non-refundable.

Signed: (Parent/Carer)

Date: