

September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE OPAL COAST, FRANCE FROM TUESDAY 2nd TO FRIDAY 5th JULY 2019

The benefits of residential experiences have been well documented. The year-based ones in particular provide a great opportunity for students in the year group not only to participate in a range of cross-curricular activities, but to spend time getting to know one another, and of course, to have fun. We do recognise that for a number of our students this will be either their first residential experience, or more likely, their first one abroad. The visit will run for four days and will help them build up confidence over a relatively short period of time. The intended itinerary is outlined below although may be subject to change.

Day One

Depart early in the morning from The Weald. We will spend the day in Boulogne to include a visit to Nausicaa Sea World. Students will have the opportunity to watch sharks swimming around them, stand up close to penguins and sea lions and stroke fish. (Piranhas not included!) This will be followed by a picnic lunch in the park (a packed lunch will be required on this day). We will then travel to the Stella Maris residential centre for dinner and evening activities. The centre offers an exceptionally high standard of accommodation and provides freshly cooked home-made food. The maximum occupancy of any room is four persons and all rooms have a television and are en-suite. We have booked the whole centre solely for Year 7 Weald students.

Day Two

We will visit Bagatelle Theme Park. Students will be allowed to go off in small groups around the park where all the excess energy can be burnt off. The theme park is designed for young people under the age of 15 and is extremely safe and well supervised. Staff will be on duty at all times at the meeting point, should students require any assistance. After a picnic lunch, we will return to the centre for an evening meal. In the evening, we will have a private hire of Aqualud Water Park in Le Touquet which is the biggest water park in Europe. We have managed to book the whole centre.

Day Three

After breakfast we will split into two groups to travel to Le Touquet and Berck. Students will be involved in Go Karting in Berck and an Adventure Activity Centre in Le Touquet. They will experience a variety of challenges, including low ropes, abseiling, zip wire plus many more. All students will be involved in both activities with a swap at lunch break. Once again, we have managed to book the whole venue. In the afternoon, we will return to the centre for an evening meal, games and a disco.

Day Four

After breakfast we leave the residential centre for home, stopping at a war graves site on the French coast. Group leaders will be asked to lead students respectfully through the site delivering a set of activities which will draw students' attention to the sacrifices made on this coast. We will then drive to La Coupole, one of the greatest relics of the Second World War in Europe. The underground bunker was used by Hitler to store, prepare and launch the V2 rockets that he was counting on to destroy London. We will then have a short stop at the hypermarket in St Omer before returning home.

Prior to the residential, students will be involved in a range of cross curricular preparatory activities. We have provisionally booked 200 places. The cost will be **£438.00** to include all meals, transport, entrance fees and insurance.

If you would like your son/daughter to be included on this trip, an initial non-refundable deposit of **£98** is required by **Thursday 18th October 2018**. Four further payments of **£85** will then be due at the end of November 2018, January, February and March 2019, making a total of **£438.00**.

Parents are not obliged to make a contribution but it is probable that if insufficient monies are received, the trip will have to be cancelled. If there are exceptional cases of hardship, the school will try to support costs through its own budget but this would reduce what we are able to spend in terms of materials and equipment for students. If you are unable to contribute, you are invited to contact me in confidence so that suitable arrangements can be made to help cover the costs of your son/daughter's participation.

Please note that payments are non-refundable as the school makes a financial commitment to the tour operators and other companies based on the number of places we book. Should you secure a place for your child and subsequently decide to cancel, you may be liable to pay any outstanding balance in full, which we have already committed to the operators or venues. However, if your child is unable to travel due to ill health, a medical certificate to cover the date/dates involved from a GP/hospital will be required, in order that a claim can be made through the school insurance. Without this evidence we will be unable to make any refund.

As The Weald is a cashless school, parents/carers should pay for the trip using ParentPay, at www.parentpay.com using their unique login and password. ParentPay is our preferred option as it is a real time transaction and saves on administration for the school. If you would prefer to pay by cash please request a barcoded letter from the finance department (tel: 01403 787223 or email finance@theweald.org.uk). You will then be able to take the letter to your local Pay Point retailer, where you can pay by cash.

We now keep student medical information, passport and EHIC details on our system which is accessible to party leaders on trips. If you require a medical form, these can be found on the school website. If your child's medical circumstances have changed please advise our Central Administration department at centraladmin@theweald.org.uk by Friday 26th April 2019.

Terms and conditions

As you know, we have the highest expectations of our students for their behaviour and conduct around school, and they rarely let us down. However, please be aware that your child's place on any school trip is dependent on their ability to cooperate fully with staff and other students, to be a responsible member of our community and to comply with school rules. In the unlikely event that a member of staff feels this is not the case, they reserve the right to withdraw a child from a trip for safeguarding purposes. Please note that payments are non-refundable and you may be liable to pay any outstanding balance in full, which we have already committed to the operators or venues.

For your child to gain a confirmed place on this trip we must be in receipt of their 'Data Collection on Admission to School' form given out on admission to The Weald. If we have not received it, your child will not be allocated a place. We will be in contact with you if that is the case.

We would encourage you to read all trip terms and conditions, including cancellation policies, medical, refunds and student expectations on our website under School Information, Enrichment Activities, After School & Offsite Enrichment Activities or by using the following link <http://bit.ly/2s4PgDq>.

Passports/EHICs

To enter France, a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry would be advised. We also require valid EHIC card details that should be in date for at least 1 month after the trip returns. It is your responsibility to provide up-to-date passport and EHIC details for the trip, including if your child has a non-EU passport. This will be required to secure your child's place on the trip, along with any other specified details. You can inform the school of any changes to these documents using the Passport Information Form found on the website under School Information, Enrichment Activities, After School & Offsite Enrichment Activities or by using the following link <http://bit.ly/2s4PgDq> and return it to centraladmin@theweald.org.uk. We will need these completed passport and EHIC details by no later than Friday 29th March 2019 before we make the final payments to the tour operator.

Please feel free to contact me or Jenny Heredge (trip administrator) if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Sweeney
(Head of Elgar House)
Trip Leader
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