

24 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 Residential visit to The Opal Coast, France - Tuesday 1 July to Friday 4 July 2025

We are delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to go on a residential trip to the Opal Coast in France. Following last year's extremely successful trip, we are excited once again to provide a great opportunity for students to participate in a range of cross-curricular activities and to spend time getting to know one another, and of course, to have fun.

This four day trip will help them build up their confidence and independence in a supported environment whilst enjoying a range of activities. The itinerary is outlined below although this may be subject to change.

Students will be given information next week in their year group assembly, but please find the provisional itinerary below.

Day One

Depart early morning from The Weald School. A 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, as well as 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 center for dinner and evening activities.

Day Two

Go Karting in Berck, laser quest in the forest near Le Touquet and Visit to Etaples War Cemetery. All students will have the opportunity to enjoy all activities with a swap at lunch break. In the afternoon, we will return to Stella Maris for an evening meal and games.

Day Three

We will visit Bagatelle Theme Park. Students will have the opportunity to go off in small groups around the park to enjoy the numerous rides. After a picnic lunch, we will return to the centre for an evening meal and disco.

Day Four

After breakfast we leave the residential centre for home. We will then have a short stop at the hypermarket in St Omer before heading for our return ferry.

Payment Information

We have booked 220 spaces at Stella Maris and if the trip is over subscribed, then names will be drawn at random. The approximate cost, subject to change, will be **£511.00** to include all meals, transport, entrance fees and insurance.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- £100 deposit due by 7 October 2024 (This includes any £25 payments already made)
- £100 due by 4 November 2024
- £100 due by 6 January 2025
- £100 due by 3 February 2025
- £111 due by 3 March 2025

For those activities that take place within the normal school day, parents are not obliged to make a contribution, however, the cost of transport, accommodation and meals fall outside of the normal day. It is probable that if insufficient monies are received, the trip will have to be cancelled. **Please contact us in confidence at trips@theweald.org.uk if you would like to explore the option of a payment plan to support your child to participate.**

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.

Next Step - we require every child to register their interest for the Opal Coast trip or to stay in school. Please complete this [google form](#) by **Friday 27 September 2024**. If for any reason this form does not work on your device then please email your request to trips@theweald.org.uk instead by **Friday 27 September 2024**.

We have 220 spaces available therefore if we are oversubscribed, there will be a random draw process.

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 trips@theweald.org.uk). You will then be able to take the letter to your local PayPoint retailer, where you can pay by cash.

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.

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](#).

Passports/GHICs

We now keep student medical information, passport and GHIC details on our system which is accessible to party leaders on trips. In January we will need you to complete an online form with your child's passport and GHIC details including a photo of the details page. The GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card) can be obtained free of charge [here](#).

To enter France, a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry is necessary. It is your responsibility to provide an up to date passport. This will be required to secure your child's place on the trip, along with any other specified details. We will need these completed passports and GHIC details by no later than **Monday 3 March 2025** before we make the final payments to the tour operator.

Please feel free to contact trips@theweald.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully,

Miss E Sperring
Ace Week & Enrichment Coordinator