

October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Residential visit to The Opal Coast, France - Tuesday 4th July to Friday 7th July 2023

We are delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to go on a residential trip to the Opal Coast in France towards the end of their time in Year 7. We have not been able to run this trip for a few years due to the pandemic. However, we recognise that this provides 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 in the year, 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. This four day trip will help them build up their confidence and independence in a supported environment whilst enjoying a range of activities. The intended itinerary is outlined below although this may be subject to change.

Day One

Depart early morning from The Weald School. 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 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 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 have the opportunity to go off in small groups around the park to enjoy the numerous rides that cater for everyone, from the more adventurous to those that prefer something more gentle. 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. After dinner, we will enjoy a visit to Laser Quest in the forest near Le Touquet where again we have booked 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 to experience a variety of challenges, including low ropes, abseiling, zip wire plus many more. All students will have the opportunity to enjoy both activities with a swap at lunch break. Once again we have managed to book the whole centre. In the afternoon, we will return to Stella Maris 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.

Payment Information

We have booked 200 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 **£496.00** to include all meals, transport, entrance fees and insurance.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- o Non-refundable deposit to secure place **£100 by 9am Monday 31st October 2022**
- o £100 due 30/11/2022
- o £100 due 31/01/2023
- o £100 due 28/02/2023
- o £96 due 31/03/2023

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.

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.

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, then 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/2s4PgDg>.

Passports/GHICs

We now keep student medical information, passport and GHIC details on our system which is accessible to party leaders on trips. Please use this link, <https://forms.gle/dPwX66A4oedvtaVu9> to complete 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 at <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>. 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 passport and GHIC details by no later than **Friday 24th March 2023** before we make the final payments to the tour operator.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Dixon
Trip Leader