

9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear all,

### **Y8-10 French/History Residential Visit to France and Belgium: July 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> 2025**

We are pleased to inform you that the Languages Department has made a provisional booking to take a group of students studying French and/or History to the French Opal coast, near Saint Omer. A coach will depart from CFS early morning on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025 and arrive back at CFS late evening on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2025, exact times will be confirmed nearer the time.

The trip is being organised through NST, the educational travel experts ([www.nstgroup.co.uk](http://www.nstgroup.co.uk)), the UK's leading educational travel company for schools, with more than 45 years' experience. They will work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your child will get the very best learning experience whilst away. We will be travelling by coach and Ferry.

We will be staying at Château d'Ebblinghem 1934 Route Nationale, 59173 Ebblinghem, France owned by NST.

The Chateau is ideal for school groups, being set in a rural location just 8km east of St Omer, on the Opal Coast in northern France and just 45 minutes from the Channel ports. The centre has four buildings designed with school groups in mind, all accommodating pupil and teacher rooms together, alongside dedicated dining and teacher areas. Accommodation includes rooms for 2-4 people, and all have a private shower, toilet and washbasin.

It is school policy that pupils travel with their own passport, therefore please ensure that your child has a valid passport. (Please note passports must be valid at least 3 months after the return date which will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 and passport applications and or renewal can take up to 14 weeks.)

If your child requires a Visa to travel abroad, please ensure that the necessary arrangements are made, and a copy is given to the school.

*For parents/carers of Year 10 pupils – Please note that this trip will take place during the week of Year 10 work experience.* Pupils could have the opportunity to take part in work experience either the week before or the week after during term time only, but parents/carers must organise this.

#### **Cost and Payment:**

**The total cost of this trip is £572.50.**

Places are limited; therefore, we highly recommend that your child needs to be committed to going on this trip; please do discuss this with your child before booking a place. **The initial deposit is non-refundable.** Once further contributions have been received towards the trip and if your child can no longer attend, we may not be able to refund these contributions.

Once a place has been offered to your child you will be able to make payments on ParentPay. Please contact the finance office via [finance@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:finance@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk) if you would like your child to participate but you have difficulty with making the contributions. If insufficient pupils sign up, then it is unlikely that the trip will go ahead.

The **£572.50** can be paid in full or alternatively:

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 - **£72.50 non-refundable deposit**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 - £100

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - £100

1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 - £100

1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 - £100

1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 - £100

Payments for the trip should be made via ParentPay. Any missed payments may result in your child losing their space.

You will receive details of when this has been set up in due course. During their time in France, pupils will work on a number of assignment projects directly related to their classroom studies. We have a brief itinerary which will be confirmed and finalised with more details once all payments have been received and the places booked:

French Enrichment at Le Chateau

St Omer – Town Trail

Visit to Boulangerie Escoeuilles

Visit to In Flanders Fields Museum

Visit to Menin Gate & the Last Post Ceremony

Visit to Sanctuary Wood Hill 62 Museum

Visit to the L'Escargotiere du Choquel Snail Farm

Visit to Parc Asterix Theme Park (1 Day Ticket)

Visit to Nausicaa Sea Centre

Local supermarket/market visits

The only additional cost will be spending money, this includes purchasing some food for outward and return meals and any souvenirs they may wish to purchase. The party will be accompanied by myself and other members of staff. As we are staying abroad, all pupils will sign a code of behaviour which they will adhere to during the trip. During the visit, the pupils may be free to make some aspects of the visits unsupervised, but this will always be in groups of no less than three and for no more than two hours.

To apply for a place for your child on this trip please log onto the School Cloud Parents Evening Booking System here <https://chichesterfree.schoolcloud.co.uk/> answering the required questions and giving permission for your child to take part in this visit.

**School Cloud will open at 7pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Applications on School Cloud is not a confirmation of a place on the trip, this will be confirmed by direct email from myself, along with details of when ParentPay will open.

**Please note, as a safety measure, pupils whose behaviour log shows that they cannot be relied upon to follow instructions, will not be accepted for participation on this trip.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs S Agate**  
**Teacher of Modern Foreign Language**  
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