



October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 French Study Visit 2024

I am delighted to announce that we will be running our annual French language trip to Normandy, for Year 10 Years students, from Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2024.

We have booked to stay at Château de la Baudonnière in South-West Normandy, north of the city of Avranches. The Château is based in beautiful wooded grounds, near a small village called Les Chambres.

Château de la Baudonniere is a French language immersion school centre; all activities involve using practical spoken French to convey a meaning and students are encouraged to speak French at all times. A friendly, French environment supports this philosophy with native French speaking staff.

The students will follow a full, year group specific, programme of trips and activities, on and off site. The time will be divided between French lessons, activities, excursions and fun French soirees. Students will also have support with their French during journal writing time in the evenings and at meals, where we will all eat in French style! All students who participate will undoubtedly have a great time in a fun, but educational, environment. Students' ability to speak French will improve substantially, and more importantly, they will have the confidence to use French and will understand the practical benefits of learning and using the language.

Dates and Travel Arrangements

The dates for the visit are Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2024. The final travel arrangements are yet to be confirmed, but it is likely that we will travel via Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth to either Cherbourg or Caen.

Students will need to check that they have a valid passport with at least 3 months remaining after the return date, and either a EHIC (European Health Insurance Card), or a GHIC (UK Global Health Insurance Card), in order to travel to Europe. Parents may also need to apply for an ETIAS visa depending on current regulations at the time of travel. A full risk assessment will be made for this trip.

Money Matters

The cost of the trip is expected to be between £577.00 and £585.00, depending upon the number of students attending; the actual cost will be confirmed at a later date. The cost will include all food and drink whilst the students are at the centre, travel, trips/excursions and insurance. Please note that meals are not included for the journey to and from the Château. A non-refundable deposit of £235.00 is payable by ParentPay as soon as possible, and by Monday 30 October at the very latest. We cannot guarantee a place if your deposit is received after this date.

Further payments will be due (by ParentPay) as follows:

First instalment of £150.00 by Monday 4 December

Final instalment (£192.00 to £200 tbc) by Wednesday 24 January

Once places have been confirmed the deposit and first instalment become non-refundable. If you withdraw from the trip at any stage for any reason not covered by an insurance claim, or if your child is withdrawn by the school due to serious behaviour issues, then cancellation charges will apply and you may be subject to an additional cancellation charge over the cost shown above. These cancellation terms are available to view on request.

Please note that the school's policy is that trips and other activities outside the normal teaching programme should be self-funding. Costs over and above the bed and board are contributions, however if these are insufficient the trip may be cancelled. In cases of genuine financial hardship, please contact Mrs Wilson in the Finance Office in confidence on receipt of this letter, and by Monday 16 October at the latest.

An Information Evening for parents and students will take place before the trip departs. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to help. You may also want to refer to the following website for further information about the visit:
www.frenchschooltravel.com/the-centre.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jabbie
Teacher of French

Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3AH
T: 01442 863605
E: admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: James Shapland BSc, MSc