



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Cologne Trip: Expression of Interest

We are pleased to be able to offer students an opportunity to visit a Christmas market in Cologne, in December 2026. Students will be able to gain an experience of a different culture and country and stay in a local youth hostel, in either double or quad rooms, on a half board basis.

The students will be leaving on the late afternoon/evening of **Thursday 3 December 2026**, arriving back at school quite late in the evening on **Sunday 6 December 2026**. We will be travelling by coach and ferry to Cologne. Included in the itinerary is a visit to the famous Christmas market in Cologne, where students will be able to purchase unique souvenirs, try the local food and watch some live music and artist performances. We will also visit the unmissable Schokoladenmuseum (Lindt chocolate museum), where students will learn about the history of chocolate and be able to sample numerous types of chocolate. Also included on this trip will be a panoramic boat tour, where we will view this historic city from the beautiful Rhine River, see the Old Town, twin spires of the Cologne Cathedral and pass under the Hohenzollern Bridge. We will also visit the World Heritage recognised Cologne Cathedral and, if time allows, we may be able to visit either Cologne Zoo or another Christmas market in nearby Aachen. All trips will be included in the final cost. Full details of the locations we will be visiting will be made available closer to the time.

We will be travelling with Travelbound tours who are an experienced company with 24 hour emergency support. Travelbound holds the Learning Outside the Classroom certificate and ABTA and ATOL assurance and is a full member of the School Travel Forum. For more information about Travelbound, please follow the link to their website: www.travelbound.co.uk

The estimated cost for this trip is £390; please be aware, if the trip goes ahead, a non-refundable, initial deposit of £50 will be due by **16 July 2026**. The balance will need to be paid in instalments between August and October 2026.

1st instalment of £110 due by 31 Aug 2026

2nd instalment of £115 due by 30 Sept 2026

Final instalment of £115 (TBC) due by 31 Oct 2026

Please note that the school's policy is that trips and other activities outside the normal teaching programme should be self-funding.

What to do next

We are limited to 60 places on this trip and anticipate that it will be popular; places will therefore be allocated via ballot process. If you would like your child to be entered into the ballot, please complete an online Expression of Interest form [here](#) by **Monday 13 July at 3.30pm**. You will be informed if your child has been successful in the ballot, and has a place on the trip, on **Tuesday 14 July by 12.00pm**. The deposit to secure the trip is due on **Thursday 16 July 2026**. We appreciate that this is a tight turnaround but in order to secure the accommodation at this very busy time we need the deposit shortly after confirmation of your child's place.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Kirk
Deputy Headteacher