



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

February 2015

Dear Year 10 Pupil and Parents

Year 11 Ardèche/Mediterranean Adventure Holiday 2016

Coaches A, B, C
Coaches D and E

7 – 15 July 2016
14 – 22 July 2016

I write to you with regard to the annual PGL Ardèche/Mediterranean adventure holiday that pupils may take part in at the end of Year 11. This trip has been running successfully for over 30 years and is undoubtedly a most memorable experience for all those who participate, falling as it does after the completion of the GCSE Examinations.

The groups travel by coach from School to the South of France and will arrive early in the morning, in time to start our three day canoe descent of the beautiful Ardèche gorge. This is a superb centre set in spacious wooded grounds 2km from the small village of Vagnas and 7km from Vallon Pont d'Arc. On day five of the trip the groups transfers to Club Mimosa situated just outside the holiday resort of Valras Plage. This site has a beach front location with direct access to a long, open and un-crowded section of the Languedoc coast. Here we will spend three and a half days involved in water sports such as sailing and windsurfing. The itinerary will probably be as follows:

Day

- 1 Depart Harrogate (am) to board (pm) Dover-Calais Ferry. Travel overnight to Ardèche.
- 2 Arrive (am) Ardèche. Breakfast. Initiation in canoeing (am). Begin descent of the gorge (pm).
- 3 Canoeing Ardèche
- 4 Finish river descent.
- 5 Depart for Mediterranean after breakfast. Arrive at Mediterranean at lunchtime. Introduction to site, beach and activities (pm).
- 6 Introduction to activities (am). Water sports (pm)
- 7 Water sports
- 8 Water sports. Depart after evening meal
- 9 Arrive Calais early morning. Arrive at St Aidan's late afternoon.

In addition to the activities outlined, there may also be visits to local towns, long boat excursions and evening activities organised by PGL staff. Please note that some coaches will visit the Mediterranean first.

No previous experience of any of these activities is necessary although you must of course be prepared to be fully involved. Qualified PGL Instructors provide the instruction necessary to ensure safe and enjoyable involvement in all of the activities. PGL's safety record is highly impressive and we as a school are confident in their ability to safeguard all who go on the trip and to deal with any problems that may arise. PGL provide specialist safety equipment such as helmets and buoyancy aids. **Please note that all participants must be able to swim at least fifty metres.**

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
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The Governing body at St Aidan's are happy to support this holiday and will be releasing a considerable number of staff to accompany those who participate. St Aidan's staff will be with pupils at all times during activities. Should we visit any of the local towns, pupils will be allowed to explore in small groups although they will know where to contact staff in the event of a problem arising, and they will also have been given detailed instructions as to the extent of their exploration. During activity sessions the responsibility for pupils' safety does lie with qualified PGL Instructors.

Students will be travelling on their own passports. Please ensure that your son/daughter has a valid passport for the visit. If he/she holds a passport other than one issued by the UK Passport Agency it is your responsibility to check if you require a Visa to travel to France. He/she will need to have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The quickest and easiest way to get an EHIC is to apply online at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers.

The cost of the trip is £785.00, payment should be made in 4 instalments. The first payment is the deposit of £50.00 which is due on Friday 20th March 2015. The subsequent payments will be £235.00 on Friday 25th September 2015, £250.00 on Friday 27th November 2015 and the final payment of £250.00 on Friday 26th February 2016. Our preferred method of payment is by Parent Pay however you can still pay by cheque (made payable to St Aidan's school fund). Alternatively the full total can be paid on Friday 20th March 2015. Please note the due date showing on the system is for the first instalment and this will be amended at a later time to show the date for the future instalments. If you are paying by cheque would you enclose with the consent form below and hand into the finance department by Friday 20th March 2014. Would you please keep to the payments outlined.

I appreciate that I am asking for payments a long time before this trip is due to take place, but I am trying to meet a PGL deadline that will allow us to qualify for a prompt payment discount, which is of course passed on to you in the price we charge. I would be grateful if you could ensure that deadlines for payments and form completion in the future are met. Should you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs K Sewell, Trips Administrator, at school.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Holdsworth
Coordinator of Outdoor Education

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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CONSENT FORM – CHEQUE PAYMENT ONLY

Year 11 Ardèche/Mediterranean Adventure Holiday 2016

I consent to my son / daughter taking part in the PGL Adventure Holiday 2016 to the Ardèche/Mediterranean as outlined in the letter dated March 2014. **I can confirm that he/she can swim at least 50 metres.** I enclose a cheque for £50.00 (made payable to St Aidan's school fund) to cover the first deposit.

Name of Pupil Form

Signed (Parent/Guardian) Date

Please return by Friday 20th March 2015 and place in the Catering Box at the Finance Department.

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