



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

March 2018

Dear Year 10 Pupil and Parents

## **Year 11 Ardèche/Mediterranean Adventure Holiday July 2019**

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 3-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.

- **Coaches A, B, and C Thursday 4 July to Friday 12 July 2019**
- **Coaches D and E Thursday 11 July to Friday 19 July 2019**

On Day 5 of the trip, the groups transfer 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 uncrowded section of the Languedoc coast. Here we will spend 3.5 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 the Ardèche
- 2** Arrive (am) in the Ardèche. Breakfast. Initiation in canoeing (am). Begin descent of the gorge (pm)
- 3** Canoeing in the Ardèche
- 4** Finish river descent
- 5** Depart for the Mediterranean after breakfast. Arrive at the Mediterranean at lunchtime. Introduction to the site, beach and activities (pm)
- 6** Introduction to the activities (am). Water sports (pm)
- 7** Water sports
- 8** Water sports. Depart after evening meal
- 9** Arrive in 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.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

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**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 50 metres.**

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. If 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. They will also 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 passport which is valid up to and including the date of return to the UK. If he/she holds a passport other than one issued by the UK Passport Agency, please note it is **your responsibility** to check and apply if they 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](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers).

The cost of the trip is £865.00 which includes all travel, full-board accommodation and activities. The balance can be paid over four instalments if preferred. The payment schedule is as follows:

• First Deposit Payment	£ 75.00	Thursday 29 March 2018
• Second Payment	£270.00	Friday 21 September 2018
• Third Payment	£265.00	Friday 23 November 2018
• Fourth Payment	£255.00	Friday 1 March 2019

If your son/daughter would be interested in a place on this trip, please pay the first deposit payment by ParentPay by Thursday 29 March 2018.

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 onto you in the price we charge.

Please note that **all payments for this trip are non-refundable** as we have to make regular payments to PGL. I would be grateful therefore if you could discuss it with your son/daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are committed to the trip. **Once the payment deadlines are reached and we have paid money to PGL, we are unable to refund your money should your child pull out of the trip, unless a replacement student can be found to fill the place.**

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School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and St John Fisher. When accompanying children on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that pupils are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip, the school staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Once the deadline of Thursday 29 March 2018 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands of the trip. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Head of Year and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and **deposits in this case will be refunded.**

Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip if, in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, there are concerns again about the pupil's participation on the trip, **the Head of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator on 01423 818527.

Kind regards

Mr D Holdsworth  
Coordinator of Outdoor Education

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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**CONSENT FORM**

**Year 11 Ardèche/Mediterranean Adventure Holiday 2019**

- I consent to my son/daughter taking part in the PGL Adventure Holiday 2019 to the Ardèche/Mediterranean as outlined in the letter dated March 2018
- I can confirm that he/she can swim at least 50 metres
- I have paid £75.00 deposit on ParentPay and understand that this and all further payments are non-refundable unless a replacement student can be found

Name of Pupil ..... Form .....

Signed (Parent/Guardian) ..... Date .....

**Please return by Thursday 29 March 2018 and hand into Main Reception at St Aidan's High School.**

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