



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

March 2019

Dear Year 10 Pupil and Parents

Year 11 Ardèche/Mediterranean Adventure Holiday July 2020

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.

Departure dates:

- **Coaches A, B, and C Thursday 2 July to Friday 10 July 2020**
- **Coaches D and E Thursday 9 July to Friday 17 July 2020**

On Day 5 of the trip, the students travel by coach to PGL Club Mimosa, stopping en route at a local water park. Club Mimosa is situated just outside the holiday resort of Valras Plage and has a beachfront location with direct access to a long, open and uncrowded section of the Languedoc coast. Here we spend 3.5 days involved in water sports such as sailing and windsurfing. The itinerary is not finalised but is likely to 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
Waterpark for the day. Arrival at site and 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.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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 and the itinerary is reversed. All students will spend the day at the water park together. Students will be able to choose the coach they wish to travel on in conjunction with their friends.

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 and 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. If your child 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.

Your son/daughter 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. We also have full school insurance for the trip.

The cost of the trip is **£875.00**, which includes all travel, full-board accommodation and activities. The balance can be paid over four instalments if preferred and the payment schedule is as follows:

• First Deposit Payment	£ 85.00	Friday 29 March 2019
• Second Payment	£290.00	Friday 20 September 2019
• Third Payment	£250.00	Friday 22 November 2019
• Fourth Payment	£250.00	Friday 6 March 2020

If your son/daughter would like a place on this trip, please pay the first deposit payment by ParentPay by **Friday 29 March 2019** where you can give consent by ticking the box to agree:

- You are happy for your child to go on the trip
- Your child is able swim 50 metres
- You accept that all payments are non-refundable.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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.

It is very important that you discuss the trip with your son/daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip. **Once we have paid the money to PGL, we are unable to refund your money should your child pull out of the trip.**

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. When accompanying pupils 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 Friday 29 March 2019 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

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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

Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk