

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 12 & 13 TRIP TO COLOGNE LANGUAGE SCHOOL – Sunday 1 March to Friday 6 March 2020

Over the past few years, we have visited and developed a close association with an excellent language academy in Cologne and are once again pleased to offer this opportunity to your son/daughter. The trip has proved to be a very valuable and enjoyable experience for our students learning German with 4 hours' tuition per day by native German teachers.

The language used by pupils and staff **throughout the trip** will be German and, as such, it will be a totally immersive experience. In addition to the time spent studying, there will be organised afternoon activities such as a tour of the city, several meals out in typical German restaurants, an outing to Bonn and its superb *Haus der Geschichte* museum and visits to Cologne's unforgettable Gestapo Museum and the excellent city zoo. There will also be limited shopping time available in the fully pedestrianised city centre.

The trip will be over 6 days in total from Sunday 1 March to Friday 6 March 2020 with travel by plane from Leeds Bradford Airport to Düsseldorf and then by train to Cologne. Students will stay in a modern hotel meaning there is no return aspect of this trip i.e. you will **not** be expected to host a German student later in the year.

The cost of this trip will depend on numbers participating. However, we anticipate the final price will be approximately **£700.00-£800.00**, which includes all flights, transfers, a week's travel card, accommodation, meals, tuition fees, insurance, course materials and a graduation certificate! Please also remember your son/daughter will need an in-date passport and EHIC medical card as well as a small amount of pocket money.

Please note that this is an educational visit taking place in school time. It is not a holiday. Students taking part are expected to complete the language tuition, do all homework set and fully participate in the cultural outings offered.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. 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.

The school will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the wellbeing of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the pupil onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the trip leader, the head of year and senior staff. Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip then, if in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the

departure, staff have concerns again about the pupil's participation in the trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place. If the decision is made that the trip is not suitable for your child, deposit payments in this instance will be refunded.

A non-refundable deposit of £220.00 is due **by 09:00 on Monday 30 September 2019**. **Payment should be made via ParentPay and the trip should now be showing on your account.** You will be able to view the balance due as well as giving online consent for the trip. Further instalment payments of equal amounts will be then be due in December 2019 with the final instalment in February 2020. Further details will be sent in due course.

Important Information

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to the Language School and book flights for your son/daughter.

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Monday 30 September 2019, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your son/daughter withdraws**, unless together we can find a replacement student. **For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that as a family you are all fully committed to the trip as this is a significant undertaking.**

If you have any queries, please contact me at school.

Regards

Mr Weare
Languages Department