

October 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

**FRENCH WORK EXPERIENCE – Sunday 15 March to Sunday 22 March 2020**

We are pleased to offer the exciting opportunity of French Work Experience from 15-22 March 2020. This gives pupils the unique opportunity to develop their linguistic competence whilst also gaining invaluable work experience and giving a unique insight into French life.

The potential for linguistic progress is enormous, particularly with listening skills, and we have seen evidence over the past 25 years of the huge strides taken in inter-personal skills and general self-confidence by students that have taken part in similar trips. Feedback from higher-education interviews makes it clear that the scheme attracts a great deal of attention to participants when applying for universities or subsequent employment.

We will depart on Sunday 15 March 2020, initially by coach to Manchester, before flying directly to Nantes. For the next seven nights, accommodation is provided in host French families with pupils in pairs or threes, including breakfasts and evening meals usually eaten as a family. The language used throughout is, of course, French. Families are all carefully vetted and the vast majority have been long-term hosts with high satisfaction ratings from past students. The return journey will be on Sunday 22 March.

Work experience placements are varied and they typically include working in shops, restaurants, cafés, hotels and kindergartens with the key factor being the opportunity for pupils to develop their language. For this reason, students are normally placed on their own to help ensure full immersion.

In the unlikely event of an issue at any time during the trip, school staff will of course be available 24 hours a day and will visit the students during their placement.

The final cost will depend on numbers participating but we estimate the price to be between **£850.00** and **£1,000.00**. This includes all flights, transfers, 7 nights' half-board accommodation, insurance and a course certificate! Please also remember your son/daughter will need an in-date passport and, depending on Brexit, an EHC medical card as well as some pocket money for lunches and, perhaps, a small gift for their employer and/or host family.

We sincerely hope that your son or daughter is able to take advantage of this exciting and worthwhile educational experience. Living and working in a foreign country is challenging and its confidence-building and linguistic benefits should not be underestimated.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part, please make a non-refundable deposit of **£175.00 by 09:00 on Wednesday 6 November 2019**. Please also return the slip below together with a photocopy of the pupil's passport so flights can be purchased. **Payment should be made via ParentPay and the trip should now be showing on your account. Please contact Mrs Holey in the St Aidan's Finance Office if you need help [h.holey@staidans.co.uk](mailto:h.holey@staidans.co.uk)**. We are aware that this is a tight turn around, but are eager to take advantage of the cheapest possible flights and have kept the initial payment as low as possible. Details of the final price and instalment schedule will be sent as soon as possible following the deadline.

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to the trip provider and book flights for your son/daughter. Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, after Wednesday 6 November 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.**

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at the Associated Sixth Form. When accompanying students 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 students 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 student and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the students onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a young person to participate will be taken between the trip leader, their Senior Tutor and senior staff. Once a student 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 their participation, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student's place. If the decision is made that the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, deposit payments will, of course, be refunded.

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me either by e-mailing [d.weare@staidans.co.uk](mailto:d.weare@staidans.co.uk) or by phoning 01423 881514. E-mail is preferred as it is usually a quicker means of making contact.

Regards

Mr Weare  
Head of French at St. Aidan's

I would like my child to take part in the Year 12 Work Experience trip to Nantes, France.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have paid the initial deposit on ParentPay.
- I enclose a copy of the student's passport so that flights can be purchased in the correct name.
- I understand that the full trip price will be due if my child needs to withdraw for any reason.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_