

September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

**FRENCH WORK EXPERIENCE IN NANTES – Sunday 5 March to Saturday 11 March 2023**

We are pleased to offer the exciting opportunity of French work experience in Nantes from 5-11 March 2023. This gives pupils the unique opportunity to develop their linguistic competence whilst also gaining invaluable work experience and 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 5 March 2023, initially by coach from St Aidan's to Stansted Airport, before flying directly to Nantes. For the next six nights, accommodation is provided in host French families with students in pairs or threes. 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 Saturday 11 March 2023.

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 be available 24 hours a day and will visit the students during their placement.

The final cost will depend on numbers participating however we anticipate the price will be between **£970.00** and **£1260.00**. This includes all flights, transfers, 6 nights' accommodation, insurance, and a course certificate!

If you would like your son/daughter to take part, please make a non-refundable deposit of **£200.00 between Wednesday 5 October and Monday 17 October 2022**. 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 St Aidan's 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 or an activation code if your child is at St John Fisher [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. Information regarding the final price and instalment schedule will be sent out as soon as possible following the deadline.

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to the trip provider and book flights for your son/daughter. After Monday 17 October 2022, 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 considering different routines and environments, which demand that students can 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.

Please remember your son/daughter will need a passport valid until at least June 2023 and either an in-date EHIC or GHIC medical card as well as some pocket money for lunches, plus perhaps, a small gift for their employer and/or host family.

We hope your son or daughter can 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_