

September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 12 & 13 TRIP TO COLOGNE LANGUAGE SCHOOL – Sunday 26 February to Friday 3 March 2023

Over previous years prior to Covid-19, we have visited and developed a close association with an excellent language academy in Cologne and we are delighted to be able to re-introduce this trip and give your son/daughter the opportunity to take part. 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 **throughout the trip** will be German and as such, students will be totally immersed in German life. 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 a visit to Cologne's unforgettable Gestapo museum. 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 26 February 2023 to Friday 4 March 2023 with travel by plane from Manchester Airport to Düsseldorf and then by train or coach 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 between £950.00-£1100.00 to include 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/GHIC medical card as well as a small amount of pocket money.

St Aidan's ParentPay

The trip is open to all students who are studying German and can only be paid on St Aidan's ParentPay. If you do not have access to St Aidan's ParentPay for your son/daughter, please contact Mrs Holey, h.holey@staidans.co.uk, to request the necessary activation codes. Please be sure to include your son/daughter's name in the email.

If your son or daughter is interested in a place, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £200.00 on the **St Aidan's ParentPay by Friday 14 October 2022**.

The final price will be confirmed in November 2022 once we know the number of students attending and the three remaining instalment payments will be due by the end of November 2022, the end of December 2022 and the end of January 2023. Reminder emails will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing for your son/daughter to take part on the trip, the cost, and confirming that their medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are **non-refundable**, as we must book flights for your son or daughter together with regular payments to our suppliers. You will also be required to pay the full price of the trip after Friday 14 October if your child withdraws, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by the companies we use. We therefore ask that you discuss the trip in detail with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.

Covid-19

As you will be aware, the Associated Sixth Form takes the current Covid-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff is always paramount. If the trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, full refunds will be given.

Behaviour

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that the success of previous trips to Cologne has been due in part to the excellent conduct of our students. Those who take part in this visit must recognise that this is a school trip and 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.

Whilst the hotel we are staying in and restaurants we visit will sell alcohol, please note that Associated Sixth Form students will not be allowed to purchase or drink alcohol during the trip. We ask parents to reinforce these points with their daughter/son.

Once the deadline of Friday 14 October has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each student who has signed up and decide whether they are able to cope with the demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Heads of the Associated Sixth Form 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 student 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 student's participation on the trip, the Heads of the Associated Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the student'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 either myself or Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk

Regards

Vicky Melia
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St John Fisher Catholic High School Harrogate