

3 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**FRENCH WORK EXPERIENCE IN LILLE – Sunday 3 March to Saturday 9 March 2024**

We are pleased to offer the exciting opportunity of French work experience in Lille from Sunday 3 to Saturday 9 March 2024.

On Sunday 3 March we will travel by train to King's Cross before boarding the Eurostar for direct transfer to Lille. For the next five days, students will then stay in host French families and attend carefully selected work-experience placements around Lille during the daytime before returning "home" for a family meal and more French conversation in the evening. The result is near-total immersion in French as well as a unique chance to develop their independence and self-confidence.

Host families and work placements are thoroughly vetted by a specialist company who use them regularly across the year and the vast majority have been long-term hosts with high satisfaction ratings from past students. Work-experience placements are individual and typically include shops, restaurants, cafés, hotels, and nurseries. Here the key factor is the opportunity for students to develop their French. Students stay in host families in pairs or threes.

Living and working in a foreign country is challenging but brings huge benefits in terms of general self-confidence and linguistic ability. The trip necessarily requires a high degree of independence, but student safety remains our priority. School staff are available in Lille throughout and are contactable by phone 24 hours a day. Across the week we will see students most days either at home, work, or while travelling between them and although we do not anticipate a problem with either accommodation or work placements, staff will visit immediately if the need arises.

The final cost depends on numbers participating, but we anticipate it will be between **£1,020** and **£1,300**. This includes all travel, 6 nights' accommodation including breakfasts and evening meals, comprehensive travel and medical insurance and of course a certificate!

There will be an online meeting via the Year 12 French Microsoft Team for interested parents/carers and students on **Monday 9 October at 6pm**. Here we will give more detail about key aspects of the trip, including our arrangements for supervising students and ensuring their safety throughout.

Following this meeting, if you would like your child to take part, please return the enclosed Application Form, including if possible a photocopy of the student's passport and GHIC/EHIC, and make a non-refundable deposit of **£200** by **9am** on **Monday 16 October**. Payment should be through the **St Aidan's ParentPay**, and the trip should now be showing on your account. If you need help with this, or for students based at St John Fisher an activation code, please contact [parentpay@staidans.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@staidans.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Information regarding the final price and payment schedule will be sent out as soon as possible following the deadline. Please remember the student will need a passport valid until at least July 2024 and 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.

### Important Financial Information

Please note that payments made for this trip are non-refundable as we are bound by the booking conditions of our suppliers.

Whilst we offer instalment payments for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws after Monday 16 October, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges unless a replacement student can be found. We therefore ask that you take the time to discuss this trip in detail with your child to make sure they are fully committed before you make any payment.

As financial pressures rise, we have been asked by some parents if they can support with the funding of trips for students who may not otherwise be able to afford to go. We do not currently have the means to facilitate this through ParentPay however, if you do wish to make a voluntary donation which will be put towards the cost of funding another student on the trip, please contact our Finance Manager via email at [E.Amos@staidans.co.uk](mailto:E.Amos@staidans.co.uk).

### Behaviour

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. To participate in any trip, the school staff must be confident that a student will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

The school will look at the behaviour, attendance and 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 about any aspect of this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me via [d.weare@staidans.co.uk](mailto:d.weare@staidans.co.uk).

Regards

Mr D. Weare  
Head of French at St. Aidan's