



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 10 Trip to Cologne, Sunday 23 June – Friday 28 June 2024

Following the success of our previous visits to Germany, we are delighted to offer students the opportunity to study at a renowned German language school in Cologne in June 2024 who will offer a tailor-made course for our students. This popular trip is intended to offer extra assistance to those taking their GCSE exams in June 2025, proving to be a valuable and enjoyable experience for our students who are learning German. Classes will be taught by German native teachers and will run for 5 days with 4 hours' tuition per day.

The trip will be over 6 days in total from Sunday 23 June to Friday 28 June 2024 with flights from Manchester Airport to Düsseldorf Airport and then either the train or coach to Cologne. Students will stay in a modern hostel 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.

In addition to the time spent studying, there will be organised afternoon activities. Examples of some of the activities are a tour of the city including a 509 step ascent of the cathedral) a film evening, several meals out, a visit to "Odysseum", Germany's premier science adventure museum, and a visit to the city Gestapo museum and the city zoo. There will also be ample shopping time available in the fully pedestrianised city centre.

Cost

The cost of this trip will depend on numbers participating. As flights have not yet been released, we anticipate the final price will be in the range of £840.00-£1000.00 to include flights, transfers, a week's travel card, accommodation, all meals, tuition fees, insurance, course materials and a graduation certificate! Please note that if the overall cost proves to be less than the price range above, we will of course adjust your future instalments or refund if necessary.

ParentPay

To give parents time to discuss the Cologne trip with their child, ParentPay will open at 09:00 on Wednesday 18 October 2023 and close at 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023.

Following your discussions, if your child would like to apply for a place on the trip, please pay the first deposit of £200.00 **by 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023**. Please note that if your child is successful in obtaining a place on the trip, this deposit is non-refundable.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay whilst making your deposit payment. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing for your child to take part on the trip, the cost, and confirming that their medical details which we hold at school are up to date. If you do not have your ParentPay login details, please contact parentpay@staidans.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
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Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023, all students will have an equal chance of being successful.

If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator and parents will only be advised by Friday 27 October 2023 if their child does not have a place. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage.

Instalment Payments

The final price of the trip will be confirmed in April 2024 when we know the final numbers of students attending and the associated costs of the trip. The payments are as follows:

Deposit payment	£200.00 by 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023
2 nd payment	£200.00 by Friday 24 November 2023
3 rd payment	£200.00 by Friday 1 March 2024
4 th payment	£200.00 by Friday 29 March 2025
Final payment	£200.00 approximately by Friday 26 April 2024

Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each deadline date together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

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 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023, 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.

Passports

Students will need their own valid passport with at least 6 months remaining before the expiry date at the time of the trip together with an EHIC/GHIC card. Please note if your child does not hold a British passport, it is your responsibility to request the relevant visas to travel to Europe.

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

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is an educational visit and not a holiday. Students taking part are expected to complete the 20 hours of language tuition, do all work set and to 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 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.

Once the deadline of 11:00 on Wednesday 25 October 2023 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each student and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your child, 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 we **reserve 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 myself or the Trips Administrator, Mrs McDonald, t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk.

Regards

Mr D Weare
Languages Department

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