



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 19 July 2024

Dear Year 10 Parent / Carer

## Year 11 Ardeche Adventure Trip – 4-11 July 2025 and 11 -18 July 2025

Further to my email earlier this week, I am delighted to confirm that we have been able to book accommodation in the Ardeche next year for our current Year 10 students. Travelling with the tour operator, Adventure Ardeche, a well-established company with over 25 years' experience of running river experiences in the Ardeche area, students will have the opportunity to experience this wonderful adventure; a trip which undoubtedly forms a very memorable experience for all those who participate.

We are currently holding accommodation over two weeks to accommodate as many students as possible. Each trip will depart on three coaches and travel to the Ardeche on either:

- Trip 1            Friday 4 July to Friday 11 July 2025
- Trip 2            Friday 11 July to Friday 18 July 2025

Students must be free for both weeks when signing up for the trip and we will confirm further details in September.

Once in the Ardeche, the party will be divided into two groups for accommodation only; the first will stay in bell tents situated on the banks of the Ardeche and the second group will stay in the company's boutique hotel, a short distance from the campsite. We have sole occupancy of both sites, and all students can take advantage of the different facilities that each accommodation offers.

An example of the itinerary is as follows:

- Day 1            Depart/Overnight Travel
- Day 2            Arrive, lunch, activities, swim, paddle boarding
- Day 3            Ardeche river prep and canoe trip
- Day 4            Ardeche canoe trip, swim and evening activities
- Day 5            Land/water-based activities / beach party
- Day 6            Excursion Day to a local water park
- Day 7            Land or water-based activities / lunch / depart
- Day 8            Arrive back in St Aidan's

No previous experience of any of these activities is necessary although you must of course be prepared to be fully involved. Qualified Instructors provide the instruction necessary to ensure safe and enjoyable involvement in all the activities. Adventure Ardeche's safety record is highly impressive and we as a school are confident in their ability to safeguard all who go on the trip and to deal with any problems that may arise. They provide specialist safety equipment such as helmets and buoyancy aids. **Please note that all participants must be able to swim at least 50 metres.**

The Governing Body at St Aidan's are happy to support this holiday and will be releasing a considerable number of staff to accompany those who participate. St Aidan's staff will always be with students during

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activities. If we visit any of the local towns, students will be allowed to explore in small groups although they will know where to contact staff in the event of a problem arising. They will also be given detailed instructions as to the extent of their exploration. During activity sessions, the responsibility for students' safety does lie with qualified Adventure Ardeche Instructors.

## Passports

Students will travel on their own passports. Passports must currently meet **two requirements for entry to France**. They must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

If your child holds a passport other than one issued by the UK Passport Agency, please note it is your responsibility to check if they require a visa to travel to France and apply if appropriate.

## Cost

We anticipate the cost of the trip to be between £960.00 and £1050.00 which includes all travel, full-board accommodation, and all activities. The payment schedule is as follows:

- |                           |                   |                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Payment | £50.00            | by Friday 2 August 2024     |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment | £150.00           | by Friday 27 September 2024 |
| • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment | £200.00           | by Friday 29 November 2024  |
| • 4 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £210.00           | by Friday 31 January 2025   |
| • 5 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £215.00           | by Friday 28 February 2025  |
| • 6 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £225.00 (approx.) | by Friday 28 March 2025     |

The final price will be confirmed in **March 2025**. Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each payment is due. I appreciate that we are asking for the deposit payment quite some time before the trip is due to take place, however we are trying to meet Adventure Ardeche's deadline that will allow us to qualify for an early payment discount, which is of course passed onto you in the price we charge and also to gauge the level of interest from our students.

## Important Financial Information / ParentPay

If your child is interested in a place, we ask that you pay the first deposit payment of **£50.00** via ParentPay by 09:00 on Friday 2 August 2024 and our apologies for this being during the school holidays however we must confirm the booking as soon as possible.

If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact ParentPay on [parentpay@staidans.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@staidans.co.uk)

We are hoping to accommodate up to 180 students. Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 09:00 on Friday 2 August 2024, 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 be advised **at the beginning of the Autumn Term** only if their child

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does not have a place. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage.

All payments made by parents are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to Adventure Ardeche. Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws from the trip after Friday 2 August 2024, you will be required to pay the cancellation charges as imposed by Adventure Ardeche, unless together we can find a replacement student.

We therefore ask you to take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your child prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing to the following:

- You are happy for your child to take part in the trip
- You agree to the cost of the trip and understand that all payments are non-refundable
- You confirm that the medical information we hold at school is correct and up to date
- You confirm that your child can swim at least 50 metres.

## Behaviour

School residential trips form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. 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.

After 2 August 2024, the Head of Year and Senior Staff will look at the behaviour, attendance and wellbeing of the students registered on the trip to confirm they are able to cope with the demands of the tour. We will inform you in writing if we have any concerns and we will return deposits in this case. If we have concerns about a student's participation in the trip prior to departure, **the Head of St Aidan's reserves the right to withdraw their place and payments made may not be refunded.**

## Insurance & EHIC/GHIC

All students are covered by our school insurance policy. Students will also need a GHIC which has replaced the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). However, if your child still holds a valid EHIC card, this can be used until the expiry date on the card. You will need to apply for a new card [here](#).

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 Mrs McDonald [t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk](mailto:t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk).

Yours faithfully

Mr D Holdsworth  
Assistant Head & Coordinator of Outdoor Education

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