



September 2017

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Visit to Normandy for Year 8 Pupils (11th – 15th June, 2018)

As you know, we are very committed to offering pupils a wide range of extra-curricular experiences. We were delighted with the success of the Year 7 trip to Germany which helped pupils to increase their knowledge of other countries and their confidence in being in different social situations. We hope that as many pupils as possible will want to take part in future trips.

In Year 8, our focus is on France, and we are currently planning our fifteenth language field trip to Normandy. This gives the pupils a superb opportunity to improve their knowledge of the French language, and offers them an insight into the life and culture of Normandy, in a safe environment. Year 8 pupils who returned from last year's trip really enjoyed the week, and the helpers who accompanied us were full of praise for the quality of the experience offered.

We travel with WST, a schools' tour company with whom we have worked for many years. They tailor the tour to our exact specifications so that we can combine excursions, study and recreational evening activities. We are very familiar with the area and we use a variety of student centres.

Accommodation:

As with all educational visits, it is now necessary to book well in advance to secure good accommodation. We have been offered a fixed number of places in two centres near Caen which is very well placed for visiting the key historical and cultural highlights of the region.

The centres offer large, purpose-built youth accommodation (usually 2-5 share a room) with adult supervision in each area. Facilities in the centre include study/recreational rooms, presentation equipment to help with language activities, and recreational spaces. The centre is in an enclosed area, locked at night, where evening outdoor activities can take place in safety. The food is usually chosen to suit the preferences of young people, and special dietary requirements are well catered for.

Dates:

The visit will be from Monday 11th June until Friday 15th June 2018 (5 days, 4 nights). This will give us three full days for activities and excursions in Normandy and, in addition, we break up both travel days with a visit to a place of interest. Further details of timing and itinerary will be issued at an information evening prior to the visit.

Activities:

Pupils will be fully occupied throughout the visit. We shall use our coaches to explore the local area.

Amongst the activities pupils will:

- visit places of historical interest e.g. Bayeux, Pegasus Memorial and the Normandy Landing Beaches
- visit places of cultural and local interest e.g. a boulangerie, a biscuiterie, a cider farm, a goat farm
- plan and shop for a picnic at a local market
- produce an interesting journal of their activities
- practise their language skills during short language lessons on the coach and study sessions at the centre
- buy ice creams and souvenirs

Travel:

We shall travel by coach (with seat belts) and ferry. In our experience, young people enjoy the experience of a boat crossing!

Cost:

The cost will be **£430**, which includes all travel, accommodation, food, activities and entrance fees throughout the week, study packs, adult supervision and insurance.

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the tear-off slip and return it, together with a **deposit of £100 by Monday 25th September 2017**. We can then secure the booking with the travel company and benefit from the early booking concession, thereby helping to keep the price down. **A second payment of £110 will be required by 20th October 2017 a third payment of £110 by 29th December 2017 and the balance of £110 by 28th March 2018.**

This trip is available for payment via ParentPay. As parents you have been given information about the system and individual user names and passwords. This is a safe and secure way of paying for trips online. If you have any queries, please contact the school at parentpay@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk Please do not send in cash.

The School may, in some circumstances, be able to offer a financial arrangement to those families who might experience some difficulties in financing such a trip. Please contact Mrs. Reed in confidence if you feel that you might qualify for such support. However, I must stress that **full payment has to be made by the agreed dates to avoid cancellation charges and loss of the place for your child.**

Should demand for places exceed coach seats and beds at the Centre, we may have to draw names of those who have paid the deposit by the due date out of a hat. It will not be done on a 'first come first served' basis.

As with the Year 7 visit to Germany, the trip relies on adult volunteers in order to secure the required adult to pupil ratio. We are extremely grateful to staff who are willing to give up time with their families to ensure that the pupils can have this experience, and we are especially grateful to parents who are often sacrificing a week of their holiday allocation to be with us. Those who have helped with educational visits in the past have found this to be an enjoyable and worthwhile experience, many even offering to repeat the experience! We would be interested in hearing from anyone who is keen to join us and is willing to work calmly in a supportive role to teachers who are leading the coaches. Please fill in the second half of the slip below and we will then contact you to invite you to a meeting where you can learn more and then decide whether you are still keen! We shall of course issue LA and School guidelines for Health and Safety prior to the visit. We endeavour to offer single rooms for adults where possible.

If you have any questions about the visit, please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Ms H Myers
Assistant Head

Please return to Pupil Services Desk, for the attention of Mrs Tsimeksis, by Monday September 25th 2017.

Normandy Visit 11th – 15th June, 2018

- I would like my child to go on the visit in June 2018 and I have paid a deposit of £100 by Parentpay.

Authorisation Code: _____

I understand that, once a firm booking has been made in September 2017, £50 of this amount cannot be refunded.

Name of pupil (BLOCK CAPS) Tutor Group:.....

Signature of parent: Date:.....

- I am / am not interested in accompanying the visit to Normandy in June 2018
- I would prefer to be in a single room. / I would be prepared to share a room if needed.
- I would prefer to be on the same coach as my child / I would be happy to travel on any coach

Name of parent: Tel No:

Address: