



Houlton School
Signal Drive, Houlton,
RUGBY, Warwickshire, CV23 1ED

01788 593 300
hello@houltonschool.org.uk
houltonschool.org.uk

Michael McCulley
Principal

Registered in England
Company number 07515832

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Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 Enrichment Trip to France

WWI Battlefields, Versailles palace, Paris by boat, Eiffel tower and Disneyland

As part of the wider curriculum, Houlton School is offering a fantastic opportunity for Year 8 pupils to take part in a five day visit to France, leaving school on **Monday 10th July** and returning **Friday 14th July**. The trip will provide an incredible opportunity for pupils to develop their language skills, and to immerse themselves in an itinerary of varied cultural experiences designed to broaden their wider global awareness.

The tour provider for the trip, Varsity Travel is a company that school leaders have regularly used in the past. Varsity Travel have organised many educational trips abroad developing cultural understanding and knowledge, something crucial to improving learning development in the classroom. We will be accompanied by a knowledgeable and experienced guide who will ensure pupils have compelling guided tours both around Paris, and the museums that are on the itinerary. We have sourced the best hotels and excursions as well as some of the country's best and most reliable coach partners.

The total cost of the trip will be **£675 per person**. This includes all meals, transport, insurance, the services of a specialist tour guide and entry into all museums and sites (including Versailles Palace, ascent of the Arc de Triomphe, Tour Eiffel, boat cruise, and Disneyland Paris). Pupils will also need to bring some personal spending money with them. As a rough guide, pupils should bring £15 for meals on the English side of the Channel and around £40 spending money converted into Euros. All major debit cards are accepted in France and pupils may choose to travel with one, however conversion charges may apply. Mobile phones can also be used for payment, with Apple and Google Pay widely accepted, but you may be charged conversion fees.

Families entitled to support from the pupil premium grant are eligible for support on this visit and the amounts to be paid will be advised separately.

Parents/Carers of pupils who book a place on the trip will be invited to an evening presentation event before departure where the travel company and school representatives will be available to answer any questions and to guide parents/carers through the full itinerary of the trip. This evening will take place once the trip numbers are confirmed and the date of this will be communicated in due course.

It is important for parents/carers to note that as this is an enrichment visit and the trip includes several 'remote supervision' opportunities. Pupils will be given independent time away from supervising adults to bond with their friends and be out of direct contact with adults. For example, in Paris when shopping on the Champs Elysées and for the day at Disneyland. Whilst adults are on hand at meeting points and available to be contacted by mobile phone at all times during these periods, if you are unsure of your child's suitability for unsupervised time, then please contact the school so we can discuss this further.



We will be travelling by coach and using the Eurotunnel to cross to France. Below is a list of some of the activities on the itinerary:

- A visit to Vimy Ridge WWI trenches and monument on the way to Calais.
In previous trips, we have arranged for pupils to visit the graves of relatives who have memorials in the areas that we are visiting. Please contact the school if you would like us to try and arrange this.
- The Arc the Triomphe, and a climb up to the top viewing gallery to enjoy a spectacular view over Paris.
- Versailles Palace, centre of power of French monarchy for over 100 years.
- A Guided Cruise on the River Seine on the Bateaux Mouches.
- Exploration of The Champs Elysées, "La plus belle avenue du monde".
- Visit to Montmartre and The Sacre Coeur Basilica.
- Disneyland Paris for a full day.
- A guided Driving Tour of Paris by Night.
- A Visit to Claude Monet's House at Giverny.
- Last but not the least, we will ascend The Eiffel Tower.

All meals (apart from lunch on the first day and dinner on the last day) are included in the cost of the trip. A continental breakfast will be available at the hotel every morning, a packed lunch during the day and a hot evening meal at Flunch (a fast casual restaurant chain), with one meal in a typical Parisian bistro. The hotels that have been provisionally reserved are Ibis hotels.

This visit may be subject to any new regulations or requirements should COVID entry requirements to France change. At the time of writing this letter, entry requirements to France are the same for all travellers, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status: There are no specific requirements for children and young people as of October 2022. Should the situation change, Varsity Travel provide a COVID-19 guarantee allowing us to postpone or cancel the trip with more flexibility.

Contract, terms and conditions:

A place will only be allocated to a pupil once the contract has been signed and returned to school and the deposit has been paid via ParentPay. Payment alone will not reserve a place for a pupil.

Please find attached the contract, terms and conditions for this visit. Please sign both copies and retain the green copy for your records and **return the yellow copy to school** via reception in order to secure your child's place (payment of the deposit signifies a provisional reservation only – if the contract is not received immediately, the place will be forfeited and offered to another child on the waiting list).

Please note that there are limited places available and, therefore, these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once we are at maximum capacity, ParentPay will automatically remove the visit from your account so you will no longer see it as available for payment. Please see the attached contract for specific details of payment schedules, terms and conditions.

If you would like any further information about the trip then please contact:

France2023@houltonschool.org.uk

Yours faithfully

M Raffy

Mr Matthieu Raffy

Subject Team Leader: Modern Languages
Visit Leader