



HOULTON
SCHOOL

Year 8 French Trip Parent Information Evening

10th – 14 July 2023

Meet the team

Trip Leader

Trip Leader



CHLOE BUCKENHAM

Vice Principal (DSL):
Personal Development,
Behaviour and Safety [Law]



MATTHIEU RAFFY

Subject Team Leader:
Modern Languages



JAMIE ABBOTT

Head of Faculty: Humanities
[History]



JASMINE ETHERIDGE

Head of Faculty:
Mathematics & Numeracy
(ADSL)



AARON GRIFFIN

Head of Faculty: Science &
Computer Science (ADSL)



SIÁN WARDE

Head of Faculty: English &
Literacy



ANGELA LANCINI

Assistant Principal (ADSL):
Quality Assurance,
Assessment & Reporting
[English]



LIESL KIRSOPP

Senior Science Technician



ABBIE HARTFIELD

Subject Team Leader:
Physical Education



JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Specialist Coach: Physical
Education & Games



CARLY MARCH

Attendance, Welfare &
Educational Visits Officer



RACHEL STRAW

Teaching Assistant



ANNIE DIVVER

Y8 Pupil Experience, Mental
Health & First Aid Leader
(ADSL)



PHOEBE FORREST

Teaching Assistant



BETHANY MCCABE

Teaching Assistant



MATTEO SAPOROSI

Teaching Assistant



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Trip Itinerary

DAY ONE

05.30

Coach arrives at Houlton School.

06.00

Depart Houlton School. Onward transfer to Folkestone.

We will show a feature-film during our journey to Folkestone & will make a brief refreshment stop en-route.

Collect food supplies en-route at Booker Cash & Carry, Folkestone.

E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Folkestone. Check in for next crossing.

Depart Folkestone.

E.T.A. Calais. Onward transfer to Vimy Ridge.

Guided Visit to The IWW Battlefield of Vimy Ridge.

Vimy Ridge was a particularly well defended area of vital strategic importance. After a number of failed attempts, it was the Canadians who, after weeks of careful preparation, finally took it. Vimy Ridge and nearby Arras were also sites of important military action during the Second World War. It was here that the B.E.F. met to counter attack against the German advance. Their valiant efforts forced the enemy to pause and gave time to withdraw via Dunkirk.

As we approach the front line in our coach, participants will be impressed by the landscape pitted by thousands of shell holes. Participants will tour the allied front line, no-mans-land and the German trenches. The tour will end with a visit to the Canadian Memorial, towering above the valley on the highest part of the ridge.

Transfer to Compiègne.

Dinner at The Flunch Restaurant, Compiègne.

Provisional drop-off time: 5:00am
Please provide a packed-lunch and snacks for the journey.

Pupils may wish to have a small amount of UK currency to buy snacks when we make a comfort break.

DAY TWO

Breakfast.

Transfer to central Paris.

Ascent of The Arc de Triomphe.

Pupils will have the opportunity to take photographs of the Arc before passing through the pedestrian underpass to get underneath the Arc itself. The Tour Guide will explain the significance of the names and sculptures on the Arc as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Participants will then mount the spiral staircase to reach the top of the Arc. Inside the monument pupils can explore the museum, visit the shop and see a film show in English. They can then climb up to the outdoor viewing gallery to enjoy a spectacular view over Paris.

Exploration of The Champs Elysees.

Students will have time to explore the shops, cafes & ice-cream outlets at the top of the Champs Elysees.

Coach transfer to The Champs de Mars.

Picnic lunch on the Champs de Mars.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch underneath the Eiffel Tower in one of the most scenic parks in Paris.

Walk to The Bateaux Mouches.

Guided Cruise on the River Seine on the Bateaux Mouches.

We will enjoy a one hour cruise on the River Seine with Bateaux Mouches. This will take us round the Ile de la Cite and the Ile St Louis and offer views of Notre Dame Cathedral, the Conciergerie, the Place de la Concorde and the Eiffel Tower.

Coach transfer to Montmartre.

Dinner at Chez Eugene Restaurant, Place de Tertre.
www.chezeugene.fr

Participants will enjoy eating on the historic Place de Tertre, where Picasso, Van Gogh, Claude Monet & Edgar Degas would have enjoyed an aperitif in days gone by. We will enjoy a grilled steak inside at the cabaret bar. This historic brasserie evokes the memories of a bygone era when Paris attracted artists from around the world, drawn to the new phenomenon known as 'Impressionism'.

Visit to Montmartre & the Place de Tertre.

The coach will park on the boulevard running along the bottom of the hill. Participants will be able to make their way along the side streets and up the steps to the facade of the Sacre Coeur Church.

Walking to the Place du Tertre, pupils will be able to admire the many artists at work, perhaps having their own portrait/silhouette done. The square is a popular visit for artists, tourists & locals. Amongst the smell of coffee, the clink of glasses, the smart waiters, the artists & the locals, students will get an evocative sense of Paris amongst the ancient cobblestones.

Visit to The Sacre Coeur Church.

Perched on top of the Hill of Montmartre, the historic white domes of this church are visible throughout Paris & have come to symbolise the city in many postcards, photos & paintings. We will enjoy a spectacular view over the city before entering the church to view the continuous Catholic service, pausing to rub the foot of St Peter for good luck.

Guided Driving Tour of Paris by Night.

The Tour Guide will give a commentary during the tour that will include the following sights, all illuminated:

The Town Hall (Hotel de Ville).
The Italian style Rue de Rivoli.
The Place Vendome.
The Paris Opera.
The Madeleine
The Place de la Concorde.
The Arc de Triomphe.
The Eiffel Tower.
Trocadero – we will alight the coach for panoramic photos of the Eiffel Tower.

DAY THREE

Breakfast.

Transfer to Versailles.

E.T.A. Chateau de Versailles. Walk to Chateau Groups Entrance.

Visit to The Palace of Versailles.

We recommend that backpacks are left on the coach to avoid having to use the group vestiaire in the palace.

Participants will collect the tickets from the groups entrance where we have a confirmed reservation. Students will visit the palace independently in their groups as it is impractical to visit the interior of the palace as one group.

Students will be awestruck with the opulence & grandeur of the Royal family's residential quarters. The walk through the palace will include the King's Apartments, the Queen's Apartments, the Hall of Mirrors & the Mars Room. Each room provides views over different parts of the formal gardens outside. We will meet in the front courtyard by the statue of Louis XIV.

Transfer to Giverny.

Picnic lunch in Giverny.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch in the grounds of the Monet Foundation. After eating, students can enjoy a game of football or alternative recreational activities.

Visit to Claude Monet's House at Giverny

Monet was lucky enough to be one of the very few Impressionist painters to become famous during his lifetime. The great wealth that he made allowed him to buy the large house in Giverny, approx. an hour's drive from Paris. Monet took great pride in his garden and brought new seeds and flowers back with him from his travels. He would often write to his wife telling her about the new plants he had acquired abroad to plant in his garden.

Monet was initially unsuccessful at persuading the local council to approve permission for the re-direction of the local river through his garden. On the second attempt the council did allow Monet to alter the course of the river and he was able to create the lake at the bottom of the garden.

Exploration of the Auchan Hypermarket, Osny.

Students will enjoy exploring the Auchan hypermarket before dinner.

Dinner at Flunch Restaurant, Mantes la Jolie.

Transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget.

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget.



DAY FOUR

Breakfast.

Transfer to Disneyland Paris.

Full Day's Visit to Disneyland & Disney Studios.

We will spend the whole day in Disneyland Paris, where participants will be able to ride on the many excellent rides & view the attractions which take place throughout the day. Rides include Thunder Mountain, The Haunted House, The Indiana Jones Ride, Honey I Shrunk The Kids, Star Wars & the largest rollercoaster in the park - Space Mountain. The group can meet to watch the Disney Parade.

In order to maximise the amount of time spent within the park, we will enjoy our dinner in the Disney Park before returning to the hotel in the evening.

Dinner in the Disneyland Park.

Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget.

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget.



DAY FIVE



Breakfast, hotel check-out & loading of suitcases into coach.

Transfer to central Paris.

Ascent of The Eiffel Tower.

The Eiffel Tower continues to be the symbol of Paris. It lost its title as the world's tallest building 50 years ago to the Empire State Building. Built for the World Fair of 1889, the Tower is 307 metres high and one can see for a distance of 45 miles on a clear day.

The Tower was originally granted 20 years of life but its use for radio telegraphy saved it from demolition in 1904.

We will ascend the stairs to the second floor, where there is a cafe and a spectacular view. Participants can then descend to the first floor to view the excellent exhibition on the Tower. We will then meet at the bottom of the North Pillar at an arranged time.

Picnic lunch under the Eiffel Tower.

Transfer to Calais.

We will show a feature film during the transfer to Calais & stop for a comfort stop en-route.

E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Calais. Check in for next crossing.

Depart Calais.

E.T.A. Folkestone. Transfer to Houlton School.

22.00

E.T.A. Houlton School.





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French Culture

- What are the key cultural differences between the UK and France?
- How can I support my child to prepare for these differences?
- Will my child be able to find things to eat that they like?
- Will someone be there to support my child with using the target language?
- What are the dangers of being in a big city like Paris that we need to ensure our pupils understand?





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Safeguarding Pupils

Risk Assessments and Emergency Protocols



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Keeping Everyone Safe

- Safeguarding is always our first priority, safeguarding concerns on the trip will be reported directly to Vice Principal Buckenham who is the Lead DSL and Educational Visits Co-ordinator for Houlton School.
- The behaviour contracts and expectations that will be in place are there to keep pupils safe.
- Pupils will be supervised in small groups and allocated a staff member who will be their first port of call and who will be responsible for them for the duration of the trip.
- During the remote supervision elements of the trip, pupils will be given clear instructions on what to do in the case of an emergency situation.
- Pupils will have an emergency contact number that they can call when out on excursions and there will be an emergency protocol in place on all aspects of the visit and in the hotel.
- Risk Assessments will be available for parents/carers to see and in the case of an unforeseen incident, the emergency protocols will be actioned.
- We will be staying across two IBIS hotels, pupils will be expected to follow the expectations to keep themselves safe and to ensure we are being respectful of others residents in the hotel.
- Where a pupil poses a safeguarding risk, protective measure will be put in place and parents/carers informed.



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Expectations and Behaviour

- Pupils on the trip will be representing our Houlton Family and will be expected to behave in an exemplary manner. The school expectations apply in the same way on the trip as they do on site and there will be **trip specific expectations** which are there to keep pupils and staff safe. Pupils and parents/carers will all sign the trip code of conduct prior to departure.
- We do not expect there to be any issues but if a pupil did put themselves or others at risk by not following instructions, or their behaviour was below the expected standard, sanctions may include:
 - Missing out on parts of the trip
 - Re-grouping or appropriate sanctions (phone confiscation etc.**)
 - In serious cases, repatriation at the cost of parents/cares

**Mobile phones will be permitted on the trip but there will be clear guidelines around their use to ensure we safeguard pupils which all pupils will be expected to adhere to. All pupils will be required to hand their phones in to staff prior to lights out each evening.



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Rewards



- Pupils will earn rewards for demonstrating our character values and going above and beyond to support each other, be kind, try new things and be courageous.
- There will be a number of opportunities on the trip for pupils to complete elements of their PiXL Edge and World Class Schools Leadership Awards.
- There will be significant overlap on the trip with other curriculum areas. Pupils will be rewarded for taking the opportunity to immerse themselves in these opportunities and explore their learning in greater depth.



Health Care Plans and First Aid

- A number of our staff on the trip are first aid trained.
- Where a pupil has an identified medical need, our Lead First Aider Miss Divver will ensure a Health Care Plan is in place and shared with all staff.
- Pupils that have an EHC Plan will have a separate risk assessment in place to ensure we are supporting pupils which we will discuss with parents/carers in due course.
- It is vital that parents/carers alert us to any medical conditions or medications a pupil may be taking prior to the trip departing.

Kit list:

Essentials:

- Passport / VISA
- EHIC/GHIC card
- Secure bag with a zip fastening
- Luggage (that pupils can carry themselves)!
- Undergarmets
- Pyjamas
- Appropriate and comfortable clothes**
- Comfortable shoes / trainers (no flip flops or open sandals)
- Socks
- Reusable water bottle
- Pen/note book
- Medications
- **Epipen**

Weather:

- Raincoat
- Umbrella
- At least one jumper
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Suncream
- Waterproof shoes / clothes

**Tip: check the weather
online before packing**

Optional Items:

- Mobile Phone
- Power adaptor
- Power bank
- Charger
- Headphones
- Games/cards
- Spending money

Hygiene:

- Toiletries
- Tissues
- Hand sanitiser
- Sanitary products





**Appropriate clothing

Pupils will be expected to dress appropriately throughout the duration of the trip. Clothes must not be inappropriately short, revealing or tight

All pupils will be issued with a lanyard which they will be expected to wear when outside the hotel which will be easily identifiable and will have the emergency contacts listed on it. The expectations on jewellery and make up remain the same as in school.

The following items will not be permitted:

- *Flip flops or open toe sandals*
- *Crop tops*
- *Vest tops*
- *Football shirts*
- *Any clothing that has an offensive words or logos on*
- *Hot pant style shorts*
- *Bodycon dresses*



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Passport/VISA/EHIC/GHIC requirements

- If your child has their own passport, as per the guidance from the Passport Office, please use this rather than the Collective Passport option.
- All passports will be collected from pupils and stored in a safe for the duration of the trip.
- If your child requires a VISA please ensure you obtain this in plenty of time prior to the trip departing.
- Please ensure you have applied via the NHS website for an EHIC/GHIC card if your child does not already have one.



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FAQs

- Who will look after the passports?
- Will my child's possessions be insured?
- Do I need a VISA for my child?
- When will we know more about the grouping and rooming arrangements?
- How do we get in touch if we need to?
- How much money should we give our child?
- Which staff member will be looking after my child?
- What does Varsity Travel provide?
- What do we do if our child gets homesick?
- What should I do to prepare my child for the trip?
- When will the next meeting be?

