



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday 9 July 2024

Dear Year 9 Pupil and Parents/Carers

## **Year 10 Ardeche Adventure Trip – 11 -18 July 2025**

We are aware that Year 9 have had less opportunities to take part in school trips and visits this year than in previously years. Therefore, we have pleasure in offering your child the opportunity to travel to the Ardeche in July 2025 for an adventure holiday when they are at the end of Year 10. Travelling with the tour operator, Acorn Adventure, a well-established, ABTA bonded company with nearly 40 years' experience of running trips, the Ardeche trip undoubtedly forms a very memorable experience for all those who participate.

For your information, it is important to note that we are also running the following Language Trips for Year 10:

<b>Sunday 29 June to Friday 4 July 2025</b>	<b>Year 10 Salamanca</b>
<b>Sunday 29 June to Friday 4 July 2025</b>	<b>Year 10 Cologne</b>
<b>Monday 30 June to Saturday 5 July 2025</b>	<b>Year 10 Nice</b>

The group will depart on three coaches and travel to the Ardeche on Friday 11 July 2025, returning on the last day of school, Friday 18 July 2025.

Once in the Ardeche, the group will be divided into two camps and each will have exclusive use of a private tented village within the centre in the Ardeche, together with a central marquee for dining, a swimming pool on site and a cafe. Four students will share a tent and they are equipped with a proper bed and hard flooring.

An example of the itinerary is as follows:

- Day 1 Depart/Overnight Travel
- Day 2 Arrive, lunch, activities, swim, river prep
- Day 3 Ardeche canoe trip (overnight bivouac)
- Day 4 Ardeche canoe trip, swim / relax
- Day 5 Land/water-based activities / disco
- Day 6 Excursion Day to a local water park
- Day 7 Land-based activities / lunch / depart
- Day 8 Return home

No previous experience of any of these activities is necessary although you must of course be prepared to be fully involved. Qualified Acorn Instructors provide the instruction necessary to ensure safe and enjoyable involvement in all the activities. Acorn'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. Acorn provides specialist safety equipment such as helmets and buoyancy aids. **Please note that all participants must be able to swim at least 50 metres.**

Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton



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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 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 Acorn 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 where appropriate.

## Cost

We anticipate the cost of the trip to be between £960.00 and £1040.00 which includes all travel, full-board accommodation, and all activities. The payment schedule is as follows:

- |                           |                  |                            |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Payment | £50.00           | by Thursday 18 July 2024   |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment | £100.00          | by Friday 6 September 2024 |
| • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment | £165.00          | by Friday 25 October 2024  |
| • 4 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £225.00          | by Friday 31 January 2025  |
| • 5 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £235.00          | by Friday 28 February 2025 |
| • 6 <sup>th</sup> Payment | £265.00 (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 I am asking for payments a long time before this trip is due to take place, but I am trying to meet an Acorn deadline that will allow us to qualify for an early payment discount, which is of course passed onto you in the price we charge.

## 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 Thursday 18 July 2024. If you do not have a ParentPay login, please contact ParentPay on [parentpay@staidans.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@staidans.co.uk)

There are 120 places available. 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 Thursday 18 July 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 on **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 Acorn. Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws from the trip after Thursday 18 July 2024, you will be required to pay the cancellation charges as imposed by Acorn, 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 18 July 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).

Kind regards

Mr D Holdsworth  
Assistant Head & Coordinator of Outdoor Education

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