

10 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Year 7 French Language and Cultural Trip to Normandy - Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July 2026**

With our departure for Normandy fast approaching, we want to share a few key updates to help the trip run as smoothly as possible. While much time has passed since the initial sign-up, we hope you now have a clearer picture of your child's readiness for travel. For the safety and enjoyment of the group, it is essential that all students can manage themselves independently for the five-day duration.

This trip requires a significant level of maturity and independence. If you feel your child is not yet ready for this specific experience, please let us know; as we have a waiting list, we can likely offer a refund at this stage. Please be assured that withdrawing now will have no impact on your child's eligibility for any future school trips.

### **Overnight**

Students will stay in shared rooms of up to six. They must be able to make their own beds (including fitting sheets and duvet covers), keep their rooms tidy and manage their personal belongings. While staff will provide regular reminders regarding personal hygiene, such as showering, brushing teeth and applying sun cream, students are expected to handle these tasks independently.

To ensure both students and staff are well-rested for the following day, we require complete silence once lights are out. (Please refer to the mobile phone section below for related evening rules.)

### **Free Time**

At specific locations, such as Mont Saint-Michel and the local market, students will be permitted up to two hours of free time to explore in groups of three or more. During these periods, students will not be under direct staff supervision. While staff will be stationed at a central meeting point and reachable via the trip's emergency mobile number, students must be capable of navigating these areas responsibly and independently with their peers. Equally, we expect students to conduct themselves appropriately and speak politely at all times and in all dealings with other members of the public.

### **Ferry Crossing**

During the 90-minute ferry crossing, students will also have free time. It is essential that they behave courteously, as we will be sharing the vessel with members of the public. A designated "base" will be established, where staff will be available throughout the crossing. Please note that students may wish to purchase food on board and should bring sufficient funds to cover this.

### **Evening Activities**

There will be a lot of free time in the evenings - students will be able to play outside or stay in their rooms with their friends. Some rooms will be allocated as "quiet zones" for those who need some peace. Staff will be on hand, but there will not always be structured activities at these times and students will need to be able to entertain themselves and behave sensibly.

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### **Mobile Phones**

Students will have access to these during the day, so they can take photos, entertain themselves on journeys, use phones for telling time for meeting points, etc. Privacy rules will of course apply. Students will need to be responsible for their phones and not lose them. We will not be responsible for any loss or damage. Please note, at night time, we will collect all phones and keep them safely so that everyone can sleep. We will wake students up in the morning, so they won't need alarms. Smart watches will also need to be handed in overnight.

### **Food**

A key part of the Normandy experience is discovering French culture through its food. At our accommodation, we will be served traditional French meals; while these may be new to some students, they are generally accessible and well received. Please note that we are unable to provide alternative menus beyond what is served by our hosts.

We will ensure that all pre-notified dietary requirements and allergies are strictly adhered to at the accommodation, in packed lunches and during our group restaurant dinner. For additional support, we will provide students with "allergy cards" in French to use when needed. However, during periods of free time (such as at the market or on the ferry), students are responsible for selecting and purchasing their own food.

### **French School**

Students will need to behave appropriately in a school setting. They will meet their penpals and talk with them a little, then do some 'Inflatables' type fun activities.

Please note, in France, students and teachers (and indeed any other staff or visitors) are not permitted religious bracelets, bands, headwear and jewellery. If your child wishes to go into the school, they will have to remove any religious items. However, we respect the fact that they may not wish/be able to do this and we have designed the programme to take this factor into account and alternative activities will be organised. It would be helpful, from an organisational point of view, if we could know in advance if your child will be unable to go into the school. Please indicate this on the Expectations and Behaviour form below.

Please discuss these points with your child, to ensure that your expectations and theirs are aligned with the reality of the trip. We ask that you emphasise the importance of exemplary conduct and compliance with staff instructions, to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the entire group. As stated earlier, if you feel your child is not yet ready for this specific experience please let us know as, whilst there are students on the waiting list, we should be able to offer a refund. Please be assured that withdrawing now will have no impact on your child's eligibility for any future school trips.

Finally, please complete the [Expectations and Behaviour Form](#) to confirm that you have read and are happy with these expectations and that your child is able to attend the French school.

Your sincerely

*L Walsh*

Mrs Walsh  
Head of French and Trip Leader