**Cologne, Germany**

**Years 8-10 Summer Trip: June 25th – 29th 2023**

September 2022

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to tell you more about the exciting German trip which I am organising for the above dates.

Cologne, with its imposing cathedral, is a beautiful town in the county of North-Rhine Westphalia on the river Rhine. The surrounding area is picturesque, as is the town and there are plenty of activities nearby.

Our proposed itinerary (please note that this is only provisional at this stage):

**Sunday 25th June:** Travel to Germany by coach.

**Monday 26th June:** Morning tour of the Bayer Leverkusen football stadium then Cologne Cathedral and climb the tower. Afternoon visit to the Chocolate Museum, shopping time and an optional visit to Café Reichard for Kaffee und Kuchen. 3D mini golf in the evening.

**Tuesday 27th:** A full day at the Phantasialand theme park. Schnitzel mit Pommes in the evening in a local restaurant!

**Wednesday 28th:** A trip to Marksburg Castle and cruise along the Rhine. Afternoon visit to Koblenz, shopping time and a Spaghettieeis!

**Thursday 29th:** Return journey to school with an approximate arrival time of 9.00pm.

**Accommodation**

5 days and 4 nights full board at Deutz youth hostel in Cologne, walking distance from the city centre.

**Requirements for Travel to Germany**

Your son will need a valid passport for the visit. It is important that the expiry date is at least three months after the return date of our trip. Your son will also need a General Health Insurance Card or a European Health Insurance Card if this is still valid, which you will need to provide at a later date.

Currently, proof of Covid-19 vaccination status or a negative test is not required for entry to Germany.

Any of the above may change and we will follow the government guidelines via the link <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/germany/entry-requirements>.

**Trip Cost**

The cost of the trip will be £760 to include all meals (apart from during the outward and return journeys), transport, accommodation, travel insurance and all activities.

**In order to confirm your son’s place on the trip, we will require a deposit of £300 by Monday 10th October.**

The remaining balance of £460 will be added to your Lent Term bill.

Please be advised that should you wish to cancel after paying the deposit, there may be extra cancellation charges as well as a loss of the £300.

**Signing Up**

The trip is open to any pupil currently in Year 8, 9 or 10 who is studying German. Please use the online booking system on EVOLVE to sign your son up for the trip. Booking links will be sent out between 19:00 and 19:30 on Monday 3rd October.

There are 35 places available on the trip, which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Your son’s place will only be guaranteed once you have booked him onto the trip via EVOLVE and transferred a non-refundable deposit of £300.

Once you have clicked the booking link, the EVOLVE trips system will automatically confirm whether he has a place. Once the place has been confirmed, please pay the non-refundable deposit of £300 by BACS to:

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30-99-15

Account: 00734106

Ref: 3W0248 and child’s name

Once all places have been filled, you will be able to add your son to a waiting list. Please do not transfer the deposit until we have confirmed that your son has a place on the trip.

I very much hope that your son will consider joining this exciting trip. It is a great opportunity for the pupils to experience German life and culture and for them to develop the confidence to use their German within a real setting, and I feel very passionately that this will provide the boys with an insight into Germany before they perhaps join further trips in later years.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Estill

Head of German