**Futuroscope et la vallée de la Loire, France**

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

September 2022

Dear Parents,

Summer is the perfect time to visit France and there is so much to see and experience in the sunnier French climes. This June, during the school’s proposed activity and arts week, the French department is planning to run 5-day trip to the Loire Valley in France for boys in Years 8, 9, and 10.

In this trip we will be exploring the beautiful Loire Valley region of France, renowned across the world for its many beautiful châteaux, as well as for the Futuroscope a unique theme park which boasting a mix of rides that make you scream plus jaw-dropping 3D films and 4D effects that take you surfing gigantic waves, flying over the oceans with whales and dolphins below you and even whizzing into outer space. The theme park is the top attraction in the Poitou-Charentes and second in France.

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

**Sunday 25th June:** Early morning departure to travel by coach to Futuroscope in time for evening meal at the accommodation.

**Monday 26th June:** Day spent at Futuroscope Park

**Tuesday 27th:** Morning: visit to Amboise and then time spent at the *Parc des Mini Châteaux* and *Aquarium du Val de Loire*.

Afternoon: visit to the Grand Aquarium de Touraine, where you will be able to see some of the magnificent species that live in the Loire, as well as the opportunity to see rare tropical fish, turtles, alligators, piranhas and even sharks in the 15-metre-long tunnel.

**Wednesday 28th:** Morning spent at *La Vallée des Singes*.

Afternoon we be spend first bowling and then exploring the charming city of Poitiers.

**Thursday 29th:** Return journey to school, arriving late evening.

**Accommodation**

5 days and 4 nights full board in a hotel within the Futuroscope complex where students will be in accommodated in rooms of 2-5.

**Requirements for Travel to France**

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 France.

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

**Trip Cost**

The cost of the trip will be £750 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 £450 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 French. 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 40 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: 3W0246 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.

We hope that many of our boys will embrace the opportunity to go on this adventure with their friends, discover French culture and put their language skills to practice. This trip represents a unique opportunity for your son to immerse himself in a French-speaking environment and to nurture his enjoyment and understanding of the French-speaking world.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs O. Thomas

Teacher of French and Trip Leader