

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Residential visit for Year 9, 10 and 11 students to Aachen Christmas market
Tuesday 13 December 2022 – Thursday 15 December 2022**

We are pleased to be able to offer your child/ward the exciting opportunity to take part in the following residential overseas trip. The Christmas markets in Germany are without doubt some of the most popular destinations for schools visiting Germany. This trip is an excellent opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German language and culture.

The cost of this trip will be around £260 and includes return travel from school, two nights in a youth accommodation, breakfast and evening meal (half-board). **The additional cost will be money for the lunches at the Christmas market and en route to Germany/UK, pocket money and cost for the passport.**

Below is the sample itinerary but please note this could be subject to change once the booking has been confirmed:

Day 1

Depart school for coach journey to Dover where we will take a ferry to France, to Calais. Arrive Calais and travel to Aachen, approximate arrival at 8pm. Accommodation for check-in and evening meal.

Day 2

Breakfast and a short coach journey to the Aachen Christmas Market where pupils will spend the day browsing the market and the town, practising language skills & taking the Aachen Christmas Markets Quiz. We will also try to organise a visit to a museum on this day. Return to the accommodation for the evening meal.

Day 3

Breakfast in the centre, check out of your accommodation and depart for return journey back to school. Visit Cite de Europe Shopping Centre before Check in Calais for the return crossing to Dover and back to school.

We will be using WST travel for this trip. WST Travel has been established over 40 years and along with many accreditations, including IIP Gold award & Customer Service Excellence Gold Award, has recently been voted "Best School Tour Operator" for the 5th time in the past 6 years by teachers.

If you would like your child/ward to take part in the trip, please pay the first payment of £100 (using WisePay) no later than Wednesday 28 September. The second payment of £100 will be due on 20 October 2022 and the third and final payment of £60 (tbc) will be due on 7 November 2022. The cost of this trip is non-refundable, except in the circumstance of an insurance claim for which we would require a doctor's letter confirming they are unfit to travel.

As you are aware, the school accepts debit and credit card payments online through WisePay and is therefore no longer able to accept payment by cheque. WisePay can be accessed through the link at the top right of our website. Letters were sent to all parents with instructions on how to register and included usernames and passwords. If you need another copy, please contact the Finance Office at school.

In the case of a National Lockdown, under WST's Covid Promise (if within 12 weeks of travel and we don't wish to wait and see if the restrictions are lifted), we will postpone/rearrange our trip to another more suitable date. You will be entitled to a full refund if within 2 weeks of travel, there are National or local restrictions in place meaning we are unable to travel.

Currently, there are no restrictions in place to enter Germany, however, for entry to France you must be fully vaccinated. Although we are seeing more easing of restrictions, it must be noted that not adhering to a country's vaccination requirements will result in not being allowed to enter the country. Therefore, you would not be entitled to a refund.

We will be holding a parents' evening in due course where you can find out more about the trip. Please note that spaces are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. We anticipate a strong demand for places so encourage a prompt response to avoid disappointment.

We will also be writing a risk assessment for the trip and we reserve the right not to take any students who we believe may be a risk to the safety of others on the trip.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me (i_havunen@taverhamhigh.org).

Yours faithfully

Ms Ilona Havunen
MFL

