



ABINGDON

From Head of Classics: Chris Burnand

25 November 2016

To all middle school and lower sixth parents,

## Abingdon Classics Department

### **PROVENCE 2017**

Monday 23 October – Saturday 28 October

Provence is so called, because it was the first Gallic province of the Roman empire, dating back to the second century BC, long before Caesar conquered the rest of Gaul in the following century. As one of Rome's wealthiest and most settled provinces in the western empire, it possesses a unique collection of Roman monuments, concentrated especially in the region around the southernmost stretch of the Rhone that we will be visiting: there are aqueducts, theatres, temples, amphitheatres and arches that are the match of those from anywhere in the Roman world. It is the first Classics trip to Provence for many years, but it is an excellent time to be going, since many of the museums have been recently renovated.

In Nimes we will visit the world-famous Pont du Gard, the Maison Carrée, an Augustan temple, and the amphitheatre; we will see the Roman houses that survive in Vaison, the theatre in Orange - one of the best preserved of all Roman theatres; we will also have a full day in Arles to visit the theatre, the amphitheatre – still used, if not for gladiator fights! – and baths. Among many other sites, we will also visit the Greek city of Marseille on the coast, which has an important story to tell about trade across the Roman empire.

Although we will be visiting the same area of France as the Abingdon fourth-year French exchange, the focus of the trip is very different, as it will be exclusively classical – and the only visit common to both will be that to the Pont du Gard and Nimes.

We will be travelling by Eurostar from St Pancras, and staying at a hotel in Arles for the whole trip. The tour price includes half-board, the train fare, all travel in France and entrance to the sites (but not the cost of lunches or of getting to and from St Pancras: I will organise a coach for those who wish to use it from Abingdon).

The cost will be approximately £700 (the precise cost is dependent on the number who sign up, and the Eurostar fare when it is released). The first non-refundable deposit is £100, payable by Thursday 15 December; half the remaining cost will be put on the Lent Term bill, and the other half on the Summer bill. The Bursary ask me to note that by completing the consent form, you are committing to the total cost of the trip (providing the trip proceeds). The completed consent form secures your son's place, but thereafter the school will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals.

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563

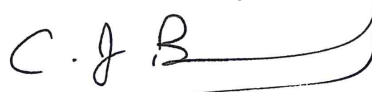
Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

If you are interested, please return the slip below to me with a cheque for £100, made payable to Abingdon School, by **Thursday 15 December**. However, places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ring me at school, at home (01865 341590), or contact me by email ([chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely



Chris Burnand – Head of Classics  
[chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk)

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To: Mr Burnand

I would like to book a place for the 2017 Provence trip for my son

..... Date of birth .....

(Please give first name and surname **exactly** as on passport). I enclose a cheque for £100 as a non-refundable deposit, and I understand that I am committing to the full cost of the trip.

Signed.....

Contact email:.....