



ABINGDON

From Head of French: Mr Nathan Brittain

25 June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

IGCSE French Study and Culture Trip to Lyon, Sunday 3 April – Thursday 7 April 2022

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to write to you with news of our study and culture trip to Lyon in the first week of the Easter break 2022 for pupils studying French at IGCSE. The trip is open to Fourth Year pupils at Abingdon and St Helen and St Katharine's in the first instance, though Fifth Year pupils are encouraged to attend. Lyon is a vibrant city near the Alps, with views to Mont Blanc, and is famous for its gastronomy, Renaissance architecture and, more recently, its football team. This trip offers an exciting opportunity for pupils to explore the fascinating history and culture of the city at first hand, whilst practising and refining their oral skills in authentic contexts. The students acquire first-hand knowledge of the country whose language they are studying and the fluency and confidence many gain is an invaluable asset for life as well as IGCSE and 6th form study. The group will be accompanied by members of the MFL department at both schools.

The pupils will spend four hours every morning in speaking classes tailored to our specific requirements and taught by native speakers in a well-established language school, Lyon Bleu International. This will provide invaluable preparation for the IGCSE oral exam. In the afternoons, we shall explore the city and some of its impressive range of attractions, as well as undertake a number of cultural and creative challenges. Any tours will be conducted in French, and a number of tasks will involve interaction with native speakers. Evenings will be spent with host families, organised by the language school.

Our tour operator is Halsbury (www.halsbury.co.uk), a fully assured member of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), and is an organisation set up to promote good practice and safety in educational travel. We intend to reserve EasyJet flights from London Gatwick to Lyon airport, leaving in the afternoon of Sunday 3 April, and returning in the early evening on Thursday 7 April. Pupils of the same gender will be paired and will have accommodation provided by host families, all of whom will live in close proximity to the language school. This will be an invaluable opportunity to use the target language and to get a glimpse of life in a French household.

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

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

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The provisional cost of transport to and within Lyon, insurance, entrance fees, activities, and 16 hours of language tuition is approximately £750, assuming a group of 25 pupils and 3 members of staff. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by host families, but a daily allowance of €10 is recommended for lunch. The price does not include any passport or visa costs. I'm sure you will understand that the total price for the trip cannot be confirmed until I am able to provide a final passenger list to our tour operator.

The indicative costs will be charged as follows over the next three bills:

Michaelmas 2021: £135 deposit
Lent 2022: £195 interim payment
Summer 2022: remaining balance

Places will be allocated strictly on a first-come first-served basis. A prompt reply is essential, both to secure a place on the trip and to enable me to confirm the airline bookings. If your child would like to participate in this trip, please fill out the electronic form, which can be accessed with this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_-VZEicFz1L8CoJ7_DfaADrrk1Oyz9ZOsQvtHedDGGeOkzw/viewform?usp=sf_link

and upload a copy of passport and their European Health Insurance Card ensuring both documents are valid until the end of April 2022. If this has expired, it is recommended you apply for a GHIC as soon as possible. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-residents-visiting-the-eueea-and-switzerland-healthcare>.

Please note that by completing the consent form (providing the trip proceeds) you are committing to the total cost of this trip. Thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred. In the event that the trip has to be cancelled and the School is not able to recover costs from either insurers or other third parties, the School will unfortunately not be able to refund the cost of the trip.

The tour operator has indicated we are eligible for a full refund if we need to cancel within 30 days of departure, due to any of the following restrictions:

- FCDO advise against travel to France
- DfE advises against overnight residential/overseas school trips to France
- France is on the amber or red travel list
- Quarantine is required upon arriving in France
- Local or national lockdown restrictions preventing our group's departure
- Local restrictions in Lyon or the region impacting on the primary purpose of our tour

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Further information on their COVID guarantee is available on their website here:
<https://www.halsbury.com/school-travel-resources/halsburys-covid-guarantee>

Pupils need to be aware that, as in previous years, the annual CCF camp also happens in the first week of the Easter holiday.

As soon as I have confirmation of final numbers attending, I will write again for final confirmation, including an itinerary. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by email if you have any questions at nathan.brittain@abingdon.org.uk.

With best wishes,

Nathan Brittain
Head of French

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