RESILIENCE · RESPECT · INTEGRITY · COMMUNITY
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Email: communications@theongaracademy.org
Website: www.theongaracademy.org
Headteacher: Mr. J. Sands
Deputy Headteacher: Ms. R. Gilbert

29 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 7/8 trip, Opal Coast, France

I am organising a 2-day trip to the Opal Coast in France to take place from Friday 17th to Saturday 18th October 2025, which is being arranged by the Tour Operator, Halsbury Travel Ltd. The purpose of this trip is to develop our students' cultural awareness and linguistic skills. This trip is open to current students in Year 7 and 8, who will be in Year 8 and 9 on the departure date of the trip.

Transport will be by coach and either ferry or shuttle and we shall leave school early in the morning on the Friday, returning late afternoon on the Saturday.

During the trip, students will visit the town of Boulogne and Le Touquet and be given a chance to practise the French acquired in their French lessons. In addition, I am organising a visit to a traditional French bakery, a snail farm, a chocolate factory, Nausicaà sea life centre and a game of bowling. Students will be accommodated in a hostel in Boulogne or in Le Touquet for the Friday night. Dinner on the Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday morning will be provided by the hostel and there will be plenty of opportunity to purchase extra snacks, lunch etc during the trip.

The maximum cost of the trip will be £320.00 per student. It is likely that this price will be lower, should we get the full quota of students apply. This price includes:

- Transportation by coach from Ongar to France and return.
- Shuttle crossing or ferry crossing (depending on price and availability once deposits have been paid)
- All entrance tickets to the visits detailed in this letter
- One night's accommodation full board in shared rooms

The price does not include any costs towards passports or visas and students must have their own individual passport to travel. Due to regulations since Brexit, passports must be less than 10 years old and must have at least 3 months left before the expiry date when they return to the UK. Students with non-British passports should make me aware of this when applying for the trip.

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This is a trip which I have run previously and has always proven to be extremely popular. The maximum number of students we can accommodate on this trip is 40 and in the event of over subscription names will be drawn randomly by an independent member of staff to ensure fairness. Please note that students with **MORE THAN** 50 behaviour points will not be accepted on to the trip and behaviour points between now and the departure date of the trip may also be considered. If you have any questions or concerns about your child being allowed on this trip, please contact me directly. This trip is aimed at students who want to actively practise their French language skills in a unique setting and those who are potentially considering choosing a language for one of their GCSE options.

Students will be allowed some free time during the day and at these times students will be expected to stay within the boundaries set out for them by staff on the day. They will also be expected to remain in groups of 4 when exploring more freely. At all times, a staff member will be situated in a central location in case any issues arise, and the students will be issued with an emergency number to contact in case of an emergency.

If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please make a deposit payment of **£100** on ParentPay by Wednesday 12th February. It is crucial that when applying for your child's place that the full name is included identical to the name on the passport your child will be carrying at the time. Any errors or name changes will be subject to a fee which will have to be paid by you. If, in the event of over-subscription, your child is not selected to go on the trip, you will receive a refund for the deposit.

If selected, please then ensure the final balance is settled by **Friday 27th June 2025**. Students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may be entitled to some financial support to meet part of the payment of the trip and should contact me should they require any financial assistance which will naturally be kept in the strictest of confidence.

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the email address below.

Yours faithfully

Mr D. Bourton
dbourton@theongaracademy.org
Head of Faculty MFL

Bridge Academy Trust
Ofsted Good Provider
YAMAHA MUSIC LONDON EDUCATION PARTNER
TEACH WELL SCHOOL GOLD
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