

7 September 2023



Newport Girls'
High School
Academy Trust

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 8 - OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT FRANCE OR GERMANY

A long-standing NGHS highlight is a visit to Europe for our Year 8 students. After the first trip post-Covid in 2023, we are pleased to confirm our intention to run two visits to Europe during Curriculum Enrichment Week next year (24th-28th June 2024). One visit will be to Northern France the second to the Rhineland, Germany. Details of both trips are given below.

Before continuing, we are announcing these trips against a backdrop of austerity and concern for the cost of living for many families. We are acutely aware of this and have thought how we can do our best to mitigate any potential difficulties. Students for whom the school receives free school meal/pupil premium support will have up to 50% of the costs of the trip met by this fund and there are nine months over which payments can be spread. Furthermore, if current finances dictate difficulties in meeting the cost of one of the trips, we would invite parents to discuss the matter in confidence with Mr Scott.

Option 1 will be a four-night trip to Northern France, organised by Monsieur Audouin. There are places for around 60 students on this trip. This group will be staying full board in "Le Château de Warsy". It was built in 1725 and is now part of the Manor Adventure Group. The Château is surrounded by an exceptional estate consisting of 88 acres of unspoilt woodland and parkland which includes two natural lakes and an outdoor swimming pool. Located at the focal point of a small hamlet in Picardy, it is situated less than two hours from the Channel ports. Many bedrooms have magnificent views over the surrounding parklands. All student rooms have en-suite facilities. During their stay, students will experience a range of activities such as a visit to a French bakery and mayo making. Students will also be visiting some of the Battlefields of WWI in the Somme area, the town of Amiens where students will be able to practise their transactional skills and a trip to Paris including the Tour-Montparnasse and a cruise on the Seine. **The cost of the trip will be £649.00.**

Option 2 will be a four-night trip to the Rhineland area of Germany for 53 students. The group will reside at a hotel in the picturesque town of Boppard on the banks of the river Rhine. This is on a full-board basis with daily packed lunch. The group will visit a medieval castle, enjoy a boat trip on the Moselle river, visit the historical city of Koblenz, tour a quirky clockwork musical instrument factory and finally spend a day at Germany's leading theme park; Phantasialand. They will travel overnight on luxury coach to Dover arriving mid-afternoon in Boppard, but rather than a long drive back, they will enjoy an overnight North Sea cruise crossing with four students sharing a cabin and full board/entertainment/disco. **The cost of the trip will be £595.00.** Students will be expected to try out their German skills with hotel staff and in shops!

Both trips will try to facilitate dietary requirements but if your child has complex needs please contact us prior to applying via schooloffice@nghs.org.uk. Please note vegetarians or students who do not eat pork/beef or wheat can be accommodated, so no problems there. Students who do *not* enjoy ferry crossings are probably best to avoid the German trip as the ferry cruise is overnight with cabin accommodation. That said it is a large ship and usually a calm crossing in the summer months. Both Mr Scott and M. Audouin have considerable experience leading foreign trips and a number of staff from across the school will supervise students during the visits including first aiders.

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We appreciate that Year 8 students are at different stages of personal development. For some this will be their first trip away from home. Whilst our staff always try to reassure students, an element of resilience around daily routine, being away from home, being roomed with students they may/may not know and trying new foods is expected and we ask parents to consider this when putting their child forward for either trip. The students who went on both the trips in 2023 had an amazing time, but a couple did find it challenging to be away from home for five days so please do consider this carefully before applying for a place.

We now therefore invite students to state a **preference** for whichever trip they favour and it would be appreciated for ease of administration if students would be willing to travel on either trip. Both trips will offer the chance to immerse students in the language and culture of the country being visited.

If you would like to request a place on either trip for your child, we ask you to complete [this online form](#) no later than **Monday 11 September at 9am**. Late requests will be accepted if space permits. As soon as the places have been allocated, we will write requesting the first deposit payment of £80 by return. A second deposit payment of £160 will be due after half term. Further payments will be collected in the Spring Term. The exact payment plan for each trip will be confirmed when places are awarded. Payments can be made in fewer, larger instalments or in full if desired. **The deposit payments are non-refundable** as the school often funds a greater proportion of the cost to the tour company than has been collected at any given point.

If a trip is oversubscribed, we will use a ballot system to allocate places, taking note of all those who have expressed interest in that particular trip into account. Please note it is not possible to allocate students in (friendship) groups to either trip – both trips will be very enjoyable and with 50+ students on each trip we are sure that your child will be with at least someone whom she knows well.

Finally, we must mention that each student will require their own passport and GHIC (health card). The passport must have at least three months validity after the trip has concluded (at least until November 2024) and the GHIC card can be obtained through the gov.uk website. Once trip places are confirmed, we would request parents make arrangements for a passport and GHIC card for their child without delay.

Yours faithfully,

M. C Audouin
Head of Languages
French Trip Organiser

Mr M J Scott
Headteacher
German Trip Organiser