



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

90cArdeche19/SKE/DSY
November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 8 L'ARDECHE AND AOSTA VALLEY ADVENTURE TRIP – JULY 2019

For a number of years pupils from KJS have had the opportunity to experience a challenging water sports and adventure holiday in the south of France & Italy. The academic year 2018/19 is no exception, as we have maintained our contacts with the firm of Acorn Adventure. Acorn are a schools adventure tour firm, fully bonded with ABTA and members of the Federation of Tour Operators (as well as the schools version of this).

I have made a provisional booking for an eight-day trip at the end of the summer term. **The trip will depart Friday 19 July and return Saturday 27 July 2019, the first week of the summer break.** The trip is based at two centres: the first 3 days being in the L'Ardeche, France and the last 3 days in the Aosta Valley, Italy. We will leave Knaresborough on Friday afternoon and travel for 24 hours plus, down to the south of France. On the morning of Saturday 20 July we will finish our journey at the tour company's centre at Labeaume.

We will canoe on the L'Ardeche river which runs down through a spectacular gorge with sides that in places rise to 300 metres above the river. Below are some extracts from the brochure:

“Staying in tents at our site ‘Labeaume’ near the town of Vallon Pont d’Arc, you will have the opportunity to take on 30km of the L’Ardeche descent by Canadian canoe. The descent can be made without previous experience. Our river team of instructors will create an enjoyable and safe atmosphere by providing excellent instruction and encouragement to every party member throughout the trip. We use only high quality, robust canoes and each member receives a buoyancy aid, helmet, paddle and waterproof barrel (one between two). Groups receive an introduction to canoe techniques and safety procedures. Then pupils move to the top of the river to begin the descent. A night is spent on the riverside bivouac site, complete with barbecue. White water sections are always carefully controlled, being negotiated only after the instructors have positioned themselves strategically to ensure safety.”

On the fourth activity day we will transfer to the Aosta Valley in Italy (arriving for tea). The centre is well equipped and based in a spacious Italian campsite in the mountains. The activities are tailored to suit the scenery and pupil's ability. Activities include: white water rafting, abseiling, scrambling, high ropes and walk up to a local castle. The evenings could include activities put on by the centre staff or a trip to the local town of Aosta to eat in a pizzeria.

Pupils MUST be able to swim 50 metres unaided.

Acorn Adventure state that all their activities are operated along national governing body (NGB) guidelines and with regard to the DFE publication ‘**Safety in Outdoor Education**’. They have designed their activities with reference to the guidelines from the Department for Education ‘**Safety in Outdoor Activity Centres**’, along with the United Kingdom Activity Centre Advisory Committee's: Code For Outdoor Adventure Providers.

The total cost of this ‘Adventure Holiday’ Package is: **£735**

Included in the price of the trip will be:

- Travelling by executive coach
- A fully comprehensive insurance
- Use of equipment such as canoes, buoyancy aids, boats, etc.
- Tents and site fees
- Meals while staying in both areas, including lunches
- Full instruction and supervision of activities

Not included in the price of the trip will be:

- Your own sleeping bag and pillow
- Pocket money for optional activities, drinks and snacks (plus food for the journey)
- Towels
- Wet weather gear – cagoules
- Warm clothes: fleece and leggings

If you wish your child to participate in this trip please complete the expression of interest slip below and **return it directly to Mr Keeble by Friday 19 January 2018**. The trip is limited to 40 places and in the event of it being oversubscribed, a ballot will take place to allocate places. On receiving an expression of interest I will also discuss the student's suitability to join this trip with the relevant Head of Year.

Confirmation of places will be notified to students by Mr Keeble by Friday 26 January 2018. You will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£150 by Friday 9 February 2018** to secure your child's place. Payment for this trip should be made online through ParentPay (www.parentpay.com). *Please tick the consent box for this trip.*

Please do think carefully before making a commitment to this trip. If you do wish to withdraw your son/daughter at a later date there may be a student willing to take the place, but please understand the position if this is not the case. The Tour firm will not refund the first two deposits once paid and the tour firm operates a sliding penalty once the final balance has been paid, depending on time remaining (monies can be reclaimable through the insurance company due to illness or redundancy only). I will do my best on your behalf; however loss of all or part of your deposits can result.

Serious Incident

National and international security threats in recent months are foremost in our minds as we plan our ongoing programme of trips and visits. Our partnership with parents as we plan and risk assess our visits is important as we all keep in mind our responsibilities within the framework of a trip. I can assure parents that we work very closely with our travel companies and we also take independent travel advice from North Yorkshire County Council who have specialist advice available in relation to trips.

We have a very robust risk assessment process and we review all trips on an ongoing basis. Security advice at the point where we plan a trip may be different by the time the trip is due to leave. Once a booking is made to go on a trip, travel and insurance companies treat cancellations as 'disinclination to travel'. Any withdrawal or cancellation by a parent, guardian or the school may incur financial losses and we cannot guarantee it would be paid for by our insurance provider except in exceptional circumstances.

It is very important that parents satisfy themselves that they are comfortable with the arrangements of a trip before they commit to it. The school works to the latest travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. If a serious incident occurs whilst travelling to the destination, the school reserve the right to cancel the trip or end a visit prematurely. We are always happy to discuss trips and visits in more detail if you need further information before making a commitment to a trip.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any point you wish to discuss.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Keeble
Party Leader 2019

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**YEAR 8 L'ARDECHE AND AOSTA VALLEY ADVENTURE TRIP JULY 2019
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Student Name:		Tutor Group:	
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(please tick)

I would like the child named above to take part in the L'Ardeche & Aosta Valley adventure trip.

If the child named above is allocated a place, I confirm I will pay the £150 deposit by Friday 9 February 2018 and the balance of £585 (when required) via ParentPay.

Parent/Carer Name:		Date:	
Parent/Carer Signature:			

Completed slips to be returned to Mr Keeble by Friday 19 January 2018