



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

71c2018/JCP/DSY
May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 8 2018/19 GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET TRIP: 29 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER

We are very pleased to be able to offer a visit to a Christmas market in Germany from **Thursday 29 November to Sunday 2 December 2018**. The trip will be offered to all Year 8 2018/19 pupils but will be of particular benefit to those who are studying German in 2018/19.

We will be departing in the evening on the Thursday and will travel overnight to arrive in Cologne on Friday morning. For the return journey, we are aiming to be back in Knaresborough at approximately 9pm on the Sunday.

We shall be staying in a functional but comfortable Youth Hostel situated in the centre of Cologne. Pupils will be accommodated in 3-4 bedded rooms and all rooms are equipped with private facilities. The hostel team is experienced in accommodating school and student groups and there is a friendly atmosphere. Breakfast and evening meals will be provided. However, pupils will need to purchase their own lunch, snacks and drinks.

Our trip will include visits to the various themed Christmas markets (including the opportunity to enjoy ice-skating on the open-air rink), a visit to the famous Cologne Cathedral, a tour of the old town and a visit to the Lindt Chocolate Museum. The aim of this visit is both cultural and linguistic. Pupils will be able to practise their speaking and listening skills and as we are going at Christmas, they will experience the atmosphere of Advent leading to a traditional German Christmas.

Travel to Cologne will be by coach from school to Dover. We shall then take the ferry to Calais (1½ hour crossing) before travelling with the same coach to Cologne in Germany (4 hours). The return trip will also be via ferry.

Your child will require his/her own passport and EHIC

The cost of this visit will be **£362** and this includes all travel, accommodation, meals at the Youth Hostel, insurance, entry tickets to the Lindt Chocolate Museum, the Cathedral and ice skating. The price also includes a breakfast en route and a late lunch on the ferry on the return journey. The price does not include lunches, snacks and drinks. Pupils will also require some spending money for their own purchases.

We believe this is an excellent opportunity for your son/daughter to practise his/her German in an authentic atmosphere and it will add relevance to the study of a foreign language. We also think it will provide a valuable social experience where pupils develop independence and self-confidence.

If you wish your child to participate in this trip please complete the expression of interest slip below and return it directly to Ms Copperthwaite by **Wednesday 30 May**. There are limited places on this trip and in the event of it being oversubscribed a ballot will take place to allocate places.

Confirmation of places will be notified to parents by text by Wednesday 6 June. You will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£102 by Friday 22 June 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.*

The balance of £260 will be required to be paid in two further instalments one by the end of July and one in September.

Security Threats

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.

I hope that I have provided you with sufficient information. However, should you require further details, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully



Ms J Copperthwaite

Head of Languages

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TRIP TO COLOGNE – Thursday 29 November – Sunday 2 December 2018

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| Student Name: | | Tutor Group: | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|--|

I would like my child to take part in the German Christmas Market trip to Cologne and confirm I will pay a deposit of £120 by Friday 22 June via ParentPay if my child is allocated a place.

I confirm that my child has his/her own passport and EHIC card (please tick)

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|--------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Parent/Carer Name: | | Date: | |
| Parent/Carer Signature: | | | |

Please return this slip to Ms Copperthwaite (M16) by Wednesday 30 May