



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

YEAR 7 FRENCH OPAL COAST TRIP: 15th JUNE-18th JUNE 2026

We are very pleased to be able to offer a French language trip at King James's School with a 4 day trip to the French Opal coast from Monday 15th June– Thursday 18th June 2026. The trip will be offered to all Year 7 students.

We will be departing from Knaresborough in the very early hours of Monday morning (approx. 12.30am – Sunday evening/ Monday morning) and arriving at the Chateau at lunchtime on Monday. For the return journey, we will depart from France in the morning and aim to arrive back to Knaresborough in the early evening. Travel to the Opal Coast will be by coach from school to Dover and then ferry to Calais before travelling with the same coach to Le Touquet. The return journey will also be by coach and ferry.

We shall have sole occupancy of the Chateau d'Ebblesham which is specifically for student groups and located approx. an hour from Calais. Pupils will be accommodated in 4-6 bedded rooms with breakfast, packed lunches and dinner provided.

The aim of the visit is both cultural and linguistic. Our trip will include a variety of activities giving students the opportunity to experience French culture whilst also improving their language skills. Students will have the opportunity to visit the local seaside town of Le Touquet completing a language-based town trail challenge. They will visit a traditional French bakery, where they will learn how to make bread, a local snail farm where they will have the opportunity to try snails and a goat farm. On the penultimate day students will visit 'Bagatelle', a well-known theme park in the region. In the evenings students will take part in language-based activities at the Chateau such as archery tag, playing pétanque and making French crepes.

Travel requirements

Whilst most European countries no longer have COVID-19 travel requirements, any future associated requirements or costs are not included in the trip price. You should also be mindful of the EU passport requirements which require at least two empty pages, it should have been issued within the last 10 years and be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date on which we intend to travel back. Like all travel insurance, failure to meet the above requirements will not be covered by your insurance. We will keep you updated in the time leading up to the departure date. You are recommended to read through the full guidance for travel to France.

Your child will require their own passport and the new GHIC card.

Insurance Cover

From the moment the booking is accepted there is only insurance cover available for cancellation on medical grounds (with a valid doctors note). We must make you aware that, should you withdraw your child from the trip at any time, you will lose all payments in line with the tour operator's terms and conditions which is usually your first deposit (total £100.00) as a minimum and, as tour operators run a sliding scale, possibly more depending on how close it is to the final deadline. If the school is unable to fill the vacant place with a reserve, the total charge from the tour operator may be applied.

The cost of this trip will be **£628**. This includes travel, insurance, accommodation, meals and activities. Students will be required to bring a packed lunch for the outward journey. The cost does not include any drinks or snacks that students may wish to purchase, and they will require some spending money for these things and any other purchases they wish to make.

Behaviour

Participation on the trip is conditional on good behaviour and attendance which is determined by the school. Any pupil failing these criteria will be withdrawn from the trip or arrangements made to be returned home. This may lead to additional, full or partial loss of payments (which will be determined by the tour operator withdrawal policy) unless the place is filled by another pupil.

We believe this is an excellent opportunity for your child to practise their French skills 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 then please complete the expression of interest slip below and return it directly to Mrs Davies in the MFL department by Thursday 2nd October. There are limited places on this trip and should it be oversubscribed then a ballot will take place to allocate spaces. Confirmation of places will be notified to parents by text by Monday 6th October. You will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£100 by Friday 10th October** to secure your child's place. Payments for this trip should be made online through ParentPay (www.parentpay.com). Prior to making the initial payment you will be requested to complete the required consent information on ParentPay. The balance of £528 will be required to be paid in three further instalments. Further details to follow relating to payment dates.

It is very important that you are comfortable with the arrangements of a trip before committing. 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 reserves the right to cancel the trip or end a visit prematurely. 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.

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 sincerely,
Ms Copperthwaite
Head of Languages

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Student Name:		Tutor Group:	
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(please tick boxes)

I confirm that the above named student has my consent to take part in the French trip ☐

If my child is allocated a place, I confirm I will pay the £100 non-refundable deposit via ParentPay by Friday 10th October 2025 and the balance of £528 by the desired dates. ☐

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

Completed slips to be returned to Mrs Davies by Thursday 2nd October