



July 2011

Dear Parents,

Activities Week 2012 – Opportunities for Current Year 8

We are delighted that students had such a good experience on their Brittany trip. The staff who led the trip spoke very highly of the students' behaviour and response. We are grateful to parents who join the students in thanking the teaching staff and other helpers for taking the party away.

In Year 9 we are working hard towards the goal of having a choice of overseas visits with enough places to take whoever wishes to go. However, booking accommodation able to take large groups is a particular problem in Normandy and the Rhineland, the sites we have selected which best complement the Year 9 curriculum. As a result for 2011, as in the past, we have enough places on overseas visits for only three quarters of the students in current Year 8. The students who choose not to apply for an overseas visit along with any unsuccessful applicants will follow a programme of day visits and activities back in the UK: in 2011 these included trips to Alton Towers, a sports day including Ice Skating in Hemel, and an expressive arts day.

Please be aware that on both overseas trips there are times when the children will be under "remote supervision". This means that they will be allowed to explore defined areas in groups of no less than three but without direct supervision from a member of staff. If you do not think that this arrangement would suit your child, please do not apply.

Details of the two possible overseas visits follows, along with a common reply slip that enables you to indicate for which trip, if any, you wish your child to be considered. The two visits run at the same time – you cannot do both ! There is the opportunity to indicate a first and second preference. Both visits take place in school Activities Week, which is after Year 9 exams.

Current year 8 Pupils -History Department NORMANDY Battlefields Trip 2012

Friday 6th July –Monday 9th July

Organiser: Mr P Storrie, Deputy Head

This visit to the D-Day landing area in Normandy is open to all Year 9 students, and is designed to support work we will be doing in class next summer on World War 2. The focus on the visit will be how the Allies managed to achieve the greatest sea and airborne invasion in History. Starting with a visit to the major museum in the area - the Memorial Museum for Peace in Caen - we will tour the area visiting the key sites to complete a variety of fieldwork. Visits will include the site and museum at Pegasus Bridge, where the first British paratroops landed by glider in the dark 50 metres from a key target; the Mulberry harbour remains at Arromanches, crucial to the success of the invasion; and the German gun installations at Longues-sur-Mer. Day 2 will include visits to the American sector of the landing zone including the German defences at the cliff tops of Point de Hoc, stormed by American Rangers, and the Airborne Museum at St Mere Eglise. Two cemeteries will be visited, one in the American zone (at Omaha beach, site of the landings featured in the film "Saving Private Ryan") and one British cemetery at Bayeux.

We aim to travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with video and toilet, and to cross from Portsmouth to Caen. We will stay at a superb hotel in Asnelles-sur-Mer on “Gold” beach right in the middle of the landing zone: it is well suited to our needs, and is next to a wide sandy beach for supervised recreation in the evenings.

We expect there will be 60 places available on this visit this year

The overall cost of the visit is likely to be **£375 per pupil**. This includes all travel, insurance, full board accommodation, workbooks, a “tour hoodie”, and admission charges to the sites we will visit. Students would only need a small additional amount of pocket money: maybe £20. It also includes the cost of a preliminary cinema visit to the Odeon Hatfield to see “Saving Private Ryan” which has proved invaluable preparation for previous visits.

Current year 8 Pupils – RHINELAND TRIP 2012

Thursday 5th to Monday 9th July

Organiser: Mrs E Smith, German Dept

This trip offers the students an opportunity to experience German culture first hand and practise their German in an authentic setting.

We intend to travel by coach and ferry (Dover / Calais). In the Rhineland we will stay in the Boppard area near Koblenz which will allow us to do a boat trip on the Rhine, visit one of the many beautiful German castles in the area, experience the variety of opportunities that a German town has to offer and spend a day at the Theme park “Phantasialand”. Departure times are still to be confirmed.

We expect there to be 80 places available on this visit.

We do not expect the cost of the trip to exceed **£ 380 per pupil**. This cost includes return travel (incl. comprehensive travel and medical insurance), full board accommodation and entrance fees for planned excursions. If funds allow we will also provide each pupil with a Rhineland hoodie. In addition, you might like to give your child pocket money as there are opportunities to purchase souvenirs on the ferry as well as in Koblenz/Cologne. I would suggest no more than a **maximum** of £40 in euros will be required, as well as a limited amount of sterling for the outward and return journeys.

Remission of charges for residential visits for students eligible for free school meals

Optional school residential activities can be costly, and some students are entitled to have the cost of their **board and lodging** covered. A student qualifies if the parent with whom they reside is in receipt of free school meals, and it is by reference to our school record of who receives free school meals that we would endorse that a student would qualify for this residential visit subsidy. Such a student might still face some costs on a residential visit e.g. entry costs of site visits. The trip leader concerned could clarify this.

If your family is not eligible for free school meals but you have circumstances which make you believe that local charities such as the Harpenden Trust or Redbourn Trust might be willing to assist meeting the payments, please make contact with Mr Storrie by the closing date offering a few details in writing to be forwarded to these charities.

Application for visits

Students who wish to take part in **either** visit need to return the reply slip overleaf with **an initial deposit of £50, in the form of a cheque made payable to St George's School**. Please note that “ParentPay” is not available for the deposit. Reply slips and payments have to be brought to the

Finance office in the main reception building, and must be returned by **9 a.m. on the morning of Thursday 21st July**. Places will be allocated by **Friday 22nd July**.

In the event of there being more applicants than places available, places will be drawn out of a hat soon after the deadline to identify those with places and those on a reserve list. We will first set aside anyone who is successful in being allocated a place on next Easter's rugby tour, deal with all other applications, and then see if we can allocate those on the rugby tour if places are left. I hope that parents can understand we need to *try* to avoid some students going on *two* trips abroad in Year 9 while others do not get to go at all, even though, up to a point, "that's life".

We would not include in that ballot for **any** trip the name of any student whose poor conduct and attitude in Year 8 suggests their participation would not be in the interests of an orderly and educational visit. It should be noted that if a student is accepted into the visit party now, but is involved in serious misconduct during Year 9, they may forfeit their place on the trip. This could lead to loss of monies paid unless a substitute can be found. Once your child has been accepted on the trip you are liable for the full amount unless a replacement student can be found. Boarder students whose payments are in arrears cannot be included in this visit.

Should your son or daughter gain a place on the visit, a further payment would be required in September, with further instalments after that. These could be paid via "Parentpay" – details would follow soon.

Documentation

May I also take the opportunity to remind you that if your child does take part in the trip they will need a valid passport and an EHIC medical card. Parents whose children do not have a European passport must organise a valid EU Visa for their child in plenty of time for the trip. Staff will not have the time to do this for you. Unfortunately we cannot take any child who does not have the correct travel documentation. Staff may well require passports and EHIC cards and other documentation be handed in some days ahead of trip departure so that we can be confident all is in order and we can travel without incident on the day.

Please get in touch with myself or Mrs Smith if you have queries about either visit.

Yours sincerely

P. Storrie
Deputy Head

Year 9 Activities Week Overseas Visits, 2012

Reply slip: to be brought along with a deposit cheque to the **Finance office** in the main reception building, and must be returned **by 9 a.m. on the morning of Thursday 21st July.**

Name of student _____ Tutor Group _____

My first choice visit is:

Rhineland **Normandy** (underline or circle your preference)

If not successful for my first choice do you wish to be considered for the other visit ?

Yes **No** (underline or circle your preference)

Please also indicate which of the following applies:

- **I am enclosing a cheque for £50 payable to St. George's school or**
- **I authorise that £50 can be taken from boarders' disbursements or**
- **My child is in receipt of free school meals and I am enclosing no deposit at this time but will discuss with trip leaders the payment arrangement which will apply.**

Signed _____