



24 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT GERMANY

VISIT TO COLOGNE - December 2026. This trip is designed to support students in their knowledge of German and so priority is given to students who will be studying German during the 2026/2027 academic year. The trip is open to all year groups.

Please note that in addition to this trip, we also run the German Exchange to Immenstadt in Bavaria. Details of this exchange are published separately. Students who have previously participated in this trip and/or the exchange programme, may also be interested in opportunities to visit Germany in summer 2026, including this: [German Pupil Courses – The Voyage \(ukgermanconnection.org\)](https://ukgermanconnection.org).

Your son/daughter has the exciting opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Cologne in December 2026. During this trip, students will have the opportunity to:

- practise their German skills at the Christmas markets in Aachen and Cologne
- visit Phantasialand theme park
- visit the German Sports and Olympic museum
- enjoy a Rhine river cruise
- see how chocolate is made at the Cologne chocolate factory/museum (and taste it!)
- climb Cologne Cathedral's southern tower
- do some Christmas shopping
- speak lots of German and have a lot of fun along the way

We will depart Taunton on the evening of Friday 18 December, arriving in Germany on the Saturday morning. We will arrive back in Taunton late on the evening of Tuesday 22 December. We will be travelling by coach and the trip is being arranged through Rayburn Tours.

The cost will be **up to £750** which includes:

- return coach travel and return channel crossings
- accommodation at **DJH Köln Deutz, including breakfast and evening meals**
- group travel insurance
- admission to Phantasialand, the chocolate museum and the Sports and Olympic museum
- Rhine river cruise



Students will need spending money for any souvenirs etc and money for lunches.

Students will need their own passport, valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of arrival in Germany. If your child has a non-UK passport, please check whether a visa is required, as this will involve an additional cost: [Overview of visa requirements/exemptions for entry into the Federal Republic of Germany - Federal Foreign Office \(auswaertiges-amt.de\)](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visas/overview) .

They will also need a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which is the replacement for the EHIC. If your child already has an EHIC and it will still be in date when we travel, then it will still be valid. Otherwise, you should apply for a GHIC, free of charge online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>. Once your child's place has been confirmed, the GHIC should be brought to student reception to be photocopied along with their passport.

If you would like your child to take part in the trip, please sign up via Arbor and pay a deposit of £125 by **Friday 14 November 2025**.

If you are currently receiving free school meals please indicate this when signing up as funds may be available to cover the cost of the trip.

Students should be aware that any poor behaviour in the lead up to the trip may result in their place on the trip being withdrawn.

If you have any questions regarding the visit please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is sfloyd2@castle.bep.ac

Yours sincerely



Mr S Floyd
Head of Faculty for Modern Foreign Languages