

Dear Parent/Carer

January 2023

German Exchange to Immenstadt 2023-24 – current Years 8/9/10

Thank you for your interest in the 2023-24 German Exchange. The trip will take us to Immenstadt which lies in the Allgäu region of the German Alps, where we will be staying in host families. This trip will be in February half term 2024 and incorporates skiing for 4 full days, and for a mid-week break, we will also be offering a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle and shopping in Kempten. We will spend 3 mornings in a German school. During the first weekend Castle students will spend time with their host families, normally participating in local events and activities.

The trip will take place from Friday 9 February (2024) until Sunday 18 February during the half-term holidays.

The details are as follows:

- English youth depart Taunton Friday 9 February 2024 from BTC layby (time TBC)
- Arrive in Immenstadt: Saturday 10 February, return home Sunday 18 February 2024
- German youth in Taunton: Friday 8 September until Saturday 16 September 2023
- Travel by: To be confirmed at a later date, usually Berrys Coaches and ferry from Dover to Calais.
- Total cost: £750.00, but **could be less depending on number of participants and exchange rate.**
The Castle school seek to make no profit.

The above price includes:

- All travel including Coach and Ferry.
- Full comprehensive insurance.
- 4 days of skiing in the Immenstadt region.
- Ski hire and passes.
- Entry into places of interest.

The price is very reasonable due to the fact that students will be accommodated in host German families, who will also provide breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches throughout the trip. This would be on a reciprocal basis for the German students who would be hosted in English families in Taunton in September 2023.

German incoming visit - The exchange is on a reciprocal basis.

The German group will arrive in Somerset in September 2023 (the first week of the new term). The German students will have a weekday programme arranged for them, visiting parts of Somerset and Devon during the day. The English families only need to entertain their guests over the first weekend and often join forces. Each weekday morning the German guest will be collected from school for the day's outing and will be returned at the end of the afternoon. They will spend some time in lessons too, to establish the difference between English and German education systems.

Whilst in Germany, students will not be under teacher supervision at all times, but there will be a contact number which they can ring at any time. We will meet before the trip to discuss safety and expectations, and to give you, the parents the opportunity to ask any questions and to meet the trip escorts. **Please note that due to new regulations on Child Protection, The Castle School host families will need to have a DBS check undertaken (formerly CRB), for anyone over 16.**

Pairings will be confirmed before the end of the Summer Term and you will have time to email/write to your partners before their arrival. The final payment of around £150 will be due by 1 November 2023. A pre-trip briefing will be held in January. This will allow you all to meet the escorts and discuss any final details.

The trip is limited to 40 places so if you would like your child to take part in the trip, please complete the permission slip attached and return to the Finance Office by the end of school on **Friday 20 January**. After the Friday deadline, if we have more than 40 students for the trip then student names will be placed in a ballot. You will then receive confirmation of your child's place on Tuesday 24 January. Once confirmed you will be required to pay a **deposit of £200** per person by **Wednesday 1 February** to secure your child's place on the trip. It is important that this deadline is met so that transport and ski passes ferry can be booked and any price increases will be avoided. Please pay either via Scopay, by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone). If you are currently receiving free school meals please tick the box on the attached form as funds are available to cover the cost of the trip.

Payment Schedules

First Deposit - £200.00 by 1 February 2023

Second payment - £100 by end 1 April 2023

Third payment - £100 by end of 1 June 2023

Fourth payment - £100 by 1 September 2023

Fifth payment – £100 by 1 October 2023

Final payment - £150 by 1 November 2023

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or if you wish to discuss any details outlined in this letter. My school email address is cjones@castle.somerset.sch.uk if you have any queries. I will try to reply to you as soon as it's convenient.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jones
MFL department/German Exchange Leader

German Exchange Trip – Immenstadt – February 2024

Please return slips to the Finance Office.

I give permission for my son/daughter

to take part in the trip to Germany from Friday 9 February to Sunday 18 February 2024.

Year group they will be in when trip commences

I am currently receiving Free School Meals ☐

Printed name.....Signed..... Date.....

Parent/Carer - Email Address.....

Parent/Carer - Mobile number..... Home.....