



Dear Parent/Carer

January 2024

**Re: VISIT TO COLOGNE - December 2024. 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 2024/2025 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 – the next planned date for this is February 2026. Current Year 10 students who have previously participated in this trip and/or the exchange programme, may also be interested in opportunities to visit Germany in summer 2024, including this: [German Pupil Courses – The Voyage \(ukgermanconnection.org\)](http://ukgermanconnection.org). Further details will follow in a separate letter.**

Your son/daughter has the exciting opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Cologne in December 2024. 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 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 Thursday 19 December, arriving in Germany on the Friday morning. We will arrive back in Taunton late on the evening of Monday 23 December. We will be travelling by coach and the trip is being arranged through European Study Tours.

The cost will be **up to £615** 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. 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 complete the permission slip attached and return to Student Reception by **Friday 12 January**. As there are only 35 places available for students, I recommend returning the form attached as soon as possible. If we have more than 35 students applying for a place on the trip, names will be placed in a ballot. You will then receive confirmation of your child's place by Tuesday 16 January. Once confirmed you will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £150 which can be done 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.

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**

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**Trip to Cologne – 19-23 December 2024 (Please return forms to Student Reception)**

I give permission for my son/daughter ..... to take part in the trip to Cologne **Thursday 19 December to Monday 23 December 2024.**

I am currently receiving Free School Meals.

Student's name ..... Form.....

Signed..... (Parent/Carer) Date .....