

6th March 2024

Dear families

French Christmas Market trip 5th December- 6th December 2024 Lille, France

It is with great excitement that I write to you to introduce our French Market trip which will take place in December 2024. This is a fantastic opportunity for those wanting to experience the culture of France and to practise their French in the Lille Christmas Market. This trip will be open to students who are currently in year 7, 8 and 9.

We will visit France, staying in Lille which is situated in the North-East of France near the border with Belgium. Our accommodation is likely to be the FUAJ Lille youth hostel. Students will stay in multi-bedded rooms, all of which have en-suite facilities. The hostel also has recreational areas which our students will have access to. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the hostel.

Our proposed itinerary will involve a trip to the Lille Christmas Market; with an authentic and magical atmosphere of a traditional Christmas market. The city hosts one of the most famous markets with over 50 stalls selling traditional and regional crafts, cuisine and gifts.

On day two we will take a guided tour of Lille. A few of the places we may visit are: Old Lille, Euralille, the Fine Arts Museum, Charles de Gaulle's Birthplace and Museum, the Citadel, Panoramic bus tours, the Juniper Route, Museum of Art and Industry in Roubaix, the Flanders Textile Museum, the Mandarine Napoleon Estate. Will we then have time to spend at EuraLille; one of the largest shopping centres in Northern France before our return journey.

We will be travelling with the renowned tour company, Halsbury Travel and have entrusted them with the planning of this trip. They have a comprehensive safety management system and are fully bonded through ABTA and ATOL. They meet all the requirements of the DfE guidelines. The cost of the trip includes comprehensive travel insurance for all those attending.

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We will be travelling via an executive coach with a professional and experienced driver. The coach remains with us throughout the tour and has air conditioning and toilet facilities. We will travel via ferry from Dover to Calais. This is a 2-day tour with 1 night in France.

What is included in the price?

- Comprehensive travel insurance, including that for medical emergencies.
- Return travel
- 1 night **half-board** accommodation (first meal - Thursday evening)
- Full trip programme

Lunches are not provided and students will need to bring money to buy lunch for the days we are away as well as for dinner during our return journey. Whilst we can include this in the cost, we have found that students don't tend to want to eat the lunches that are provided and so have not included this.

How to book


The total cost of this tour is **£185**. In order to secure a place on the trip, please pay a non-refundable deposit of **£50** by **Monday 15th April**. The schedule for payments is as follows:

Date	Payment
15th April 2024 (deposit)	£50
Friday 31st May 2024	£70
Friday 6th September 2024	£65

All Pupil Premium students (those students entitled to free school meals) are entitled to a 50% discount on the cost of this trip. If you would like to take advantage of this discount, please contact Fiona Easton via email: feaston@gfcs.uk

There are a limited number of spaces on this trip. Places will be allocated according to behaviour and engagement with the school.

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Deposit payments of £50 should be made electronically via www.parentpay.com using the payment item 'French Markets trip 2024' payment item. If you do not have access to ParentPay, please contact the school.

You will need to complete the consent details on ParentPay, including passport information.

Passports

Please be aware that you are responsible for organising the correct visa for your child if they require one for travelling to Europe. If your child is a British citizen and does not have a passport, we may be able to arrange a group passport for them. If you are interested in this, please indicate so during the consent process.

Thank you for taking an interest in this project. If you have any questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

Miss Louise Parish
French Teacher