14 March 2016

Dear Parents

FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL TOUR TO FRANCE - 2017

As your sons have no doubt told you, I am planning a trip to France next year for French students who will be in Years 11 and 12. The boys are very keen and at this stage I am asking for an expression of interest from you and a deposit of $1,000 to get things started. This deposit would be refundable if we were unable to get sufficient numbers for the trip to be viable.

The proposed dates for the trip are from Thursday, 23 March until Sunday, 16 April 2017, which incorporates Activities Week and the Easter holidays. I have also enclosed a proposed itinerary. At least two members of staff will accompany the boys. After our arrival in Paris, we will take the train to Nancy. We will then stay in Nancy for the first two weeks of our trip and the boys will attend school in this time and stay with host families. Following our time in Nancy, we will then return to Paris where we will spend a week sightseeing in Paris, Versailles, the Loire Valley and Mt St Michel. This will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone’s French language and knowledge of French culture and civilisation to improve dramatically.

As the boys are looked after by families in Nancy, it is expected that the hosting is reciprocated. The French students will come to Toowoomba for three weeks in July 2017. The French boys will come to our School and the girls will attend Fairholme College, The Glennie School or St Ursula’s College. The three weeks, at this stage, are most likely to comprise two weeks of term time and one week of school holiday time.

I believe that such a trip is of great benefit to students, since it will be both culturally and educationally enlightening. It is an unfortunate fact that language students in Australia often have no real opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gained. What is being offered here is a chance to apply this knowledge in a real life situation, and to experience firsthand the language which is spoken by 200 million people throughout the world. Furthermore, the French language is the second language of the Pacific after English, and is also one of the official languages of the United Nations, UNESCO, the European Economic Community, the World Health Organisation, the South Pacific Commission and the International Olympic Federation.

Our itinerary is based on previous years’ trips which have been highly successful. If you feel this trip would be of benefit to your son and you wish him to have this experience, please return the attached form and deposit of $1,000 on or before Monday, 18 April 2016. A further payment of $3,000 will be due on or before Monday, 18 July and a final $2,200 will be due on Monday, 5 September 2016.

Yours sincerely

E.C. Parrington
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT - LANGUAGES
Mrs E. C. Parrington  
Head of Department - Languages  
Toowoomba Grammar School  
PO Box 2900  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Dear Mrs Parrington,

I, the undersigned ________________________________,

hereby give permission for ________________________________

to travel to France as a member of the Toowoomba Grammar School French Group.

I enclose herewith the sum of $1,000 as a deposit, and agree to pay a further $3,000 on or before Monday, 18 July 2016, and the remaining $2,200 on or before Monday, 5 September, 2016.

Please make payments via the Toowoomba Grammar webpage, clicking on Community and then TGS Event Registration & Payment.

The direct link is: http://www.twgs.qld.edu.au/community/event-regpayments  
>> Select Group = Tours  
>> Select Event = French Tour 2017  
>> Complete required information and follow prompts for payment.

For other methods of payment, please contact the Accounts Department directly. Please do not make payments using BPay, as these will go toward school fees.

I also agree to pay any additional expenses which may arise from my son’s participation in the tour.

I understand that, once payments have been made, no refunds will be possible on withdrawal from the trip, unless the position is filled by another person or tour is cancelled due to lack of numbers.

__________________________
(Parent Signature)

PLEASE RETURN AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2016.
Toowoomba Grammar School - Proposed Itinerary
France 2017

Thu 23 March, Brisbane - Paris
Assemble at Brisbane International Airport to check-in prior to departure on Singapore Airline flight at approx. 2.00pm for Singapore (all flight details yet to be confirmed)

Fri 24 March, Paris
BLD Upon arrival in Singapore transfer and depart for Charles de Gaulle Airport. Upon arrival at 6.55am collect luggage and proceed through Customs & Immigration. Using your rail pass depart from Paris CDG station for Lorraine TGV station. On arrival you will be met by your host families. Whilst in homestay, our group will have two day-trips together; One to Verdun to visit World War I Battlefields: Verdun Memorial, the Bayonettes Trench, the Ossuary and the Citadel, and another to Strasbourg on the French/German border. Host family to provide full board.

Sat 8 April, Nancy - Paris
LD This morning farewell your host families and travel to Paris. Travel by train to Paris Est station. On arrival transfer by coach to your hotel, home for the next five nights. Lunch at Hotel.

Afternoon at Montmartre and Sacré Coeur. Dinner at restaurant near Bateau Mouche port followed by an evening cruise on the Seine.

Sun 9 April, - Paris
BL This morning visit Musée de l'Armée and Napoleon's Tomb. Lunch nearby. Afternoon - Pompidou, Notre Dame, Shakespeare Bookshop, Latin Quarter.

Mon 10 April, Paris
BD This morning visit Sainte Chapelle and Conciergerie and in the afternoon the Louvre. Dinner nearby. Evening enjoy the views of Paris from the Eiffel Tower.

Tue 11 April, Paris
BD This morning travel to Versailles guided visit with audio-guides of the Palace and then return to Paris in time for the 6.00pm ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe. Dinner nearby.

Wed 12 April, Paris
BLD This morning - Opéra Garnier followed by lunch nearby. Afterwards Musée d’Orsay Dinner near your hotel.

Thu 13 April, Paris - Loire Valley - Angers
BLD Today enjoy a full day tour to Loire Valley with entrance fees included to Chateaux Chambord, Amboise, and Chenonceau. Enjoy lunch in Amboise. Continue to Angers for dinner and overnight.

Fri 17 April, Angers - Mont St Michel - Paris
BD This morning travel to the tidal island of Mont St. Michel for a guided visit with audio-guides of the Benedictine Abbey. The first structure, a simple oratory, was built here in the 8th Century by the Bishop of Avranches, and was subsequently expanded and enhanced with the addition of Romanesque and Gothic buildings.

Travel then via Caen to Paris for your last night in France.

Sat 18 April, Paris - Brisbane
BLD Morning transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport Terminal 1, to check-in prior to departure on Singapore Airlines flight at 12.00pm for Singapore.

Sun 19 April, Brisbane
BL Arrival in Singapore at 6.40am, transfer to your flight departing at 9.40am for Brisbane. Upon arrival in Brisbane at 7.30pm your tour concludes. (All flight times to be confirmed)

End of Tour