

The Cotswold School has always had a strong and successful tradition of organising trips to enable our pupils to go on trips both at home and abroad and we were thrilled that this was specifically recognised by OFSTED in our most recent inspection. As a Language College we consider trips to be a vital part of our mission to raise awareness of different cultures, to give the pupils the opportunity to put their languages into practice and to learn some of the skills in our citizenship programme. So that you have an idea of what is on offer we have summarised overleaf what we hope to do together with this year's price and the target year group so that you can make an informed choice as to what you would like your child to participate in.

In addition the MFL department will continue to run the Bavaria German exchange (September and July) and the Brittany French exchange (November and March) along with our new Andalucia Spanish exchange (September and June) as well as A level Spanish Work Experience in Madrid. These offer our more committed senior linguists the opportunity to practise their languages in a linguistic environment. Exchanges require the English family to host the foreign student in return for up to a week.

Due to prescriptive government health and safety guidelines it is getting more and more complicated to organise trips. We are committed to getting as many of our pupils on trips as possible but we do ask certain things of would be participants in return:

- **We ask for a deposit of minimum £100, returnable only if a direct replacement can be found.** We have had pupils withdraw from trips, often at a late stage. Parents are reminded that we take initial deposits in good faith and that the price per pupil and the number of staff that we can take are determined by the group size. It is both time consuming and stressful for the organising staff if pupils withdraw and could also put us in a very awkward position financially. Costs incurred by any changes to travel tickets booked in good faith would be the financial responsibility of the parents. We ask that pupils only sign up if they intend to honour the commitment. Although the deposit is substantial you will now have plenty of warning.
- **Information and communication** – we ask parents to keep us informed right up to the last minute about any changes to medical or contact details that might affect their child's safety on a trip. We have on occasions unwittingly taken a very poorly child away or been unable to contact a parent because we were not kept informed. **We would also ask you to respect departure and pick up times.**
- **Sensible and considerate behaviour is expected at all times.** The school reserves the right to refuse or to cancel an application from anyone whose attendance gives cause for concern or whose behaviour either in or out of school could be considered dangerous or detrimental to the smooth running of the trip. In addition parents will be asked to come and collect at their own expense anyone whose behaviour is unacceptable on the trip itself. Anyone who oversteps the mark will be severely dealt with and may be banned from future school trips. We ask pupils and parents to sign a behaviour contract to show that you understand how important these rules are and that you agree to abide by them. Regular checks will be made on the behaviour and attendance of trip participants and continued participation is dependent upon favourable reports.
- Having said this **the vast majority of our pupils are a credit to the school and have a wonderful cultural and linguistic experience.** We hope that your child has either already benefited from our trips programme or will have the opportunity to do so in future.

The Cotswold School Trip Charter

We as a school will do our best to

- Offer a **wide and varied programme** of trip possibilities
- Give your child a **safe and enjoyable experience**
- Provide opportunities to **consolidate curriculum knowledge**
- Encourage **self confidence and social skills**

We ask you as parents to support us by

- Signing up for trips only if you are sure you can **honour the commitment**
- Understanding that **deposits and payments are non refundable**
- Accepting that **travel costs incurred through withdrawal** will be the responsibility of the parents
- **Keeping us fully informed** at all times about changes in health, personal or contact details
- **Dropping off and picking up on time (being late without a very good reason could put future trips in jeopardy for your child)**
- Signing the **behaviour contract** with your child
- Understanding that **poor behaviour and/or attendance** may result in your child's place being withdrawn

