



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

17 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Christmas Markets trip 2022

I am writing to you about a very festive trip we wish to run for Year 11 students studying with us in Year 12 next year. I first took my students to the world-famous Christmas markets of Cologne as a Year 11 form tutor ten years ago. The trip became an annual treat at that school, which I continued when I started teaching at Midhurst Rother College. As academic lead for Year 11, I wanted to take the year group to Cologne this December, but travel restrictions prevented us from planning ahead for 2021.

As you may know, French and German cities have a long tradition of setting up stalls at the start of December every year to hold Christmas markets. During Advent there are stalls for crafts and gifts, traditional foods, as well as amusements and beautifully crafted nativity scenes. Temporary fairground rides and open-air ice rinks spring up in many cities. We plan to take students by coach to the lively city of Cologne for four days, returning home via Lille on day five.

The trip will leave from College, after the end of the school day, on the penultimate day of term, Thursday 15 December and return on Monday 19 December 2022. The cost of the trip will be £350 to include visits, activities and most meals. We will stay in a relaxed hotel in the city centre which serves good breakfasts and dinners. There is also a games room and lounge for students. We will pack in as many activities as possible; climbing the cathedral tower for a great view over the city, visiting several of Cologne's nine Christmas markets, ice skating at the great outdoor rink on Heumarkt, trying out freshly made treats at the famous chocolate factory, walking or cruising along the river and visiting a castle. We hope to book a stadium tour at FC Köln and/or a visit the zoo. One evening we will eat out at a traditional German restaurant.

After breakfast on Monday morning, our coach will take us homewards, via the well-known city of Lille. Students will be able to try out their French! Lille is famous for the huge Ferris wheel that is set up in the main square each year at Christmas. Everyone will be encouraged to ride the wheel for fantastic views of the city skyline.

I hope students will be keen to come with us. Staff and Sixth Formers will enjoy exploring Cologne and of course this trip is especially relevant to students choosing modern languages courses with us. Please return the slip attached if you would like your son/daughter to accompany this trip. There will be up to sixty places available. We will confirm your child has a place then ask parents for a non-refundable first deposit of £50. We will notify parents about the payment schedule thereafter. If your household is currently facing financial hardship, please get in contact with me about applying for a travel grant from the Gilbert Hannam Education Fund (GHEF). This local charity helps MRC families pay for educational trips every year. Payments will be made via the online payment system using the following link: <https://www.scopay.com/midhurst?redirect=true>. If you require support with the online process

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please contact Hannah Clayton or Gemma Down in our finance department at Finance@mrc-academy.org. If you do not have access to the internet please make cheques payable to 'Midhurst Rother College'.

We look forward to recommencing a favourite Christmas tradition with our Sixth Formers.

Yours sincerely



Mrs F J Lunskey
Assistant Principal: Raising Standards

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Consent slip

Trip title: Christmas Markets 2022 Trip Leader: Mrs Lunskey
Date of trip/residential: 15-19 Dec 2022

Name of Student: Tutor Group:.....

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the Christmas markets trip

Name of parent/carer:Contact Tel:

Signed: Date:

Please return this slip to Student Reception by **Weds 30 November**. Thank you

If the trip is oversubscribed, you will be contacted by the trip leader to confirm whether your child has secured a place.