



King's Academy Easthampstead Park
It takes a whole community to raise a child.

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31 January 2025

******LIMITED PLACES******

40 places available on a first come, first served basis via ParentPay

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Trip to Cologne, Germany - Christmas Markets - Saturday 29th November to Monday 1st December 2025

The Modern Foreign Languages Department are delighted to be able to offer our current Year 7 students the opportunity to visit the famous Christmas Markets in Cologne, Germany on the above dates.

The *provisional* itinerary includes the following:

Saturday 29th November:

Leave school at approximately 5am and travel by coach and Ferry via France to Cologne, Germany. **Lunch is not provided.** Evening meal at the accommodation.

Sunday 30th November:

Students will spend time exploring the Christmas markets in Cologne. They will also visit the Lindt Chocolate Factory and guided tour of the famous Gothic Cologne Cathedral (fee to be paid on the day). Breakfast and evening meals are provided. **Students will be expected to buy lunch at the Christmas markets.**

Monday 1st December: Return journey via Bruges, Belgium. Students will visit the famous Christmas markets in Bruges before returning to school at approximately 9pm. **Lunches are not included.**

The cost of this trip is £470 which includes all travel, insurance and meals as specified above. It does not include any meals not specifically mentioned and therefore your child will require Euros to enable them to purchase lunch/evening meal as required at the markets. Specific timings for this trip will be confirmed during the parent information evening later in the year.

The full payment £470 is to be received by 1st July 2025. We suggest payments are made in a series of instalments as detailed below. Please note that **the deposit amounts and dates are mandatory and non-refundable, regardless of the reason unless covered by insurance, unless a replacement for your child's place is found.**

Payment	Due Date
1st Deposit £80 (non-refundable)*	Immediate to secure your child's place on a first, come, first served limited places.
2nd Deposit £80 (non-refundable)*	1 March 2025 (mandatory date)
3rd Deposit £80 (non-refundable)*	1 April 2025 (mandatory date)
4th Deposit £80 (non-refundable)*	1 May 2025 (mandatory date)
5th Deposit £80 (non refundable)*	1 June 2025 (mandatory date)
Final Balance £70 (non-refundable)*	1 July 2025 (mandatory date)

*Please note cancellation charges will be incurred if you cancel your child's place; this will be in line with the tour company's cancellation guidelines and may also include any additional costs incurred by the school. This may be over and above the non-refundable amounts depending on how close to the trip date it is. Some instances of cancellation would fall under the insurance policy (i.e., medical reasons) and if a successful claim was made the loss would be limited to the insurance excess charge.



Ringmead, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8FS

Tel: 01344 304567

e-mail: info@epschool.org

The school would endeavour to fill a cancelled place however this is not always possible. If a replacement were found, there may be associated costs which you would be required to bear, such as a change of name if these have been confirmed with the travel provider. You would then be refunded the difference upon full receipt of payment for the place from the other payee.

Current UK Government travel advice to France:

From 1 August 2022, COVID-19 travel restrictions for travellers to France were lifted. The rules that previously applied to travellers coming to France no longer apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france/entry-requirements#entry-rules-in-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Current UK Government travel advice to Germany:

All Passengers arriving in Germany do not need to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test, or a certificate of recovery from COVID-19. You can travel to Germany for all travel purposes, including tourism and visits, without restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/germany/entry-requirements#entry-rules-in-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Current UK Government travel advice to Belgium:

There are no longer COVID-19-related restrictions on travel from the UK, such as the need to present evidence of vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test or to complete a Passenger Locator Form.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/belgium/entry-requirements#entry-rules-in-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

If for any reason your child is not, or will not be, fully vaccinated you are advised not to book a place for your child as this will be at your risk if guidance changes to require vaccinations prior to departure.

Students wishing to go on the trip will require their own passport with at least 3 months remaining at time of travel. **Please check if your child requires a Visa to travel to France, Germany or Belgium as you will need to organise them.** If students do not have the required travel documents, they will be unable to go on the trip and your payment will be forfeited so please check very carefully and plan enough time to obtain them.

If your child still has a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) you can continue to use this until it expires. If they do not have an EHIC or it has expired, you can apply for a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Please visit the NHS website to order: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, however should not enough parents sign up, the trip may not be viable to run. To reserve a place for your child, please make the first deposit payment via your ParentPay account immediately.

If your child does not yet have a valid passport or EHIC/GHIC please enter an X in the details box so you can make payment and secure your child's place. These details can be added later.

Should you need to activate your ParentPay account, please email trips@kgaeasthampstead.uk. If you require any further information or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at kerry.lees@kgaeasthampstead.uk.

Yours faithfully



Miss K Lees
Head of Modern Foreign Languages