



King's Academy Ringmer

September 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: YEAR 9 CAMP 2023 TO ARDECHE – ARDECHE CAMPING MILLE ETOILES**

We are delighted to offer to the Year 9 students a very exciting opportunity to visit Ardeche Camping Mille Etoiles in France for the Year 9 Camp in 2023 during activities week. We will depart in the evening on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and return in the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This adventure is open to all Year 9 students on a first come first served basis.

Activities are of an outward-bound nature and involve a lot of physical effort. The day program includes activities such as high ropes, climbing & weaseling, descending down the Ardeche River and team games. The evening program includes a variety of activities. This is a new venue and I feel that all who attend will not only enjoy themselves but will gain a great deal in personal and social awareness. Check out the adventure at <https://www.voyagerschooltravel.com/tours/ardeche-watersports-school-trip>

The cost for the visit is between **£899** and **£925** dependent on numbers. This will cover travel, accommodation, food, use of equipment, all activities and instruction by a fully qualified staff team and insurance. It will also include a t-shirt for easy identification whilst travelling. During the stay at Ardeche Camping Mille Etoiles, students will stay in tents with raised beds students must bring their own sleeping bag and pillow. The site offers modern toilets, showers and are set in ideal locations for the activities included.

Please find set out below an **example itinerary**, we hope our 9-day visit will be similar to the following:

Day 1	meet your coach at school and travel to the Ardeche region, France.
Day 2	Arrive at campsite, collect and eat packed lunches. Upon arrival you will be greeted by Voyager staff and shown to your accommodation. Settle in, staff introduction and tour, including the fire drill.
Day 3	After breakfast your group will divide into 2 for today's activities taking a packed lunch. Group A – High Ropes. Students will travel at 09:00 to Les Vans to enjoy the high ropes course. They will spend the full day on four increasing difficulty courses with zip lines and treetop challenges. Group B – Climbing and Weaseling. Amongst the scenic crags in the limestone cliffs. These provide the perfect environment for climbing and abseiling with the encouragement and guidance from experienced instructors. After dinner evening activities will be organised
Day 4	As per day 3 your group will be divided into two and enjoy either high ropes or weaseling. Dinner then evening activities with the Ardeche team.
Day 5	Following breakfast, students will commence the first day descent of the Ardeche. In preparation for the full descent you will be given an initiation session at the river, before completing the first 7 km of the descent. During this the students will learn basic river safety and how to control their boats. The first day has the thrill of the rapids as well as paddling through the famous Pont D'Arc itself, just a taste of things to come! Enjoy lunch on the river then continue your decent of the river. After this you will visit the small town of Vallon for a little shopping and an ice cream before transferring back to the site for dinner and evening activities.
Day 6	Today your group will start day two of the Ardeche descent. After an early breakfast, pick up from where you left, now entering the gorge proper, fully equipped for the two-day descent (14km, with paddling to the Gournier Bivouac site). It's no turning back from here and once started you really begin to appreciate the magnitude and beauty of the Ardeche gorge. As well as negotiating the many rapids along the way you will have time to swim. Following a delicious lunch on the river's edge you will continue your river descent before arriving at the Gournier Bivouac site for a barbeque, river tales and hot chocolate.
Day 7	Breakfast at the Gournier Bivouac site before day three descent of the Ardeche. Once you have loaded your dry bags set off for the final day of the descent ready to face more rapids and stunning scenery. After a riverside lunch you will continue to the bottom of the gorge where you will transfer back to the campsite for dinner and last night awards ceremony.

“in pursuit of excellence”

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Principal: Mrs S. Williams BA (Hons) PGCE



Day 8	Following breakfast, pack and vacate your accommodation before a visit to Ruoms market for some shopping. Depart by coach for your overnight journey back to the UK.
Day 9	Arrive at school.

We will be collecting parental consent and payments online. An initial non-refundable deposit of **£200.00** is required by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. To make your payment and give consent, please log on to ParentPay (<https://www.parentpay.com/>) and choose the service called **Year 9 Ardeche Camp 2023**. You will be unable to complete the transaction until you have clicked on the 'consent' box.

**Students wishing to participate in this visit must be in possession of a full passport and a European Health Card (EHIC)\*.**

**NB. Passports must have an expiry date of six months after the return of the visit i.e. not before January 2024. Please send a photocopy of the passport to the Finance Office.**

\*EHIC card details– This card is the European Health Insurance Card and it is extremely important that every student has a current card when going on visits to Europe. The quickest and easiest way is to apply online at (<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcareabroad/pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx>). Your card will normally arrive within seven days. •To apply by phone, call 0300 330 1350

Staff members supervising the visit will be Mr Duckworth (Party leader) along with 3 other members of the staff. Depending on the uptake and final size of our group other members of staff may be required to also join the visit.

**Year 9 Camp Parent/Carer Information Evening** – We will be holding an information evening so everyone understands the final itinerary for the week. We will advise of a date in the new year, **it is a requirement to attend this meeting.**

If you would like your son or daughter to attend, please make your non-refundable deposit of **£200.00** no later than **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**.

**Following this initial deposit, a further 4 payments of the £180.00 will be needed to be paid by the following dates: -**

<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>	<b>£180.00</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> January 2023</b>	<b>£180.00</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>£180.00</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>£168.00 tbc</b>

**We will advise final balance as soon as numbers are confirmed. Once deposits have been paid and the visit confirmed with the tour operator we will be unable to refund any payments, please see the tour operator cancellation details as below**

### Cancellation

Please note that deposits paid are non-refundable - If you cancel a confirmed place the cancellation will be subject to the following charges:

Cancellation date	Cancellation charge
Before 06 April 2023	any deposits paid will be retained
07 April 2023 to 01 June 2023 (4-12 weeks prior to departure)	60% of the full course cost will be retained
02 June 2023 to 15 June 2023 (2-4 weeks prior to departure)	80% of the full course cost will be retained
From 16 June 2023 (14 days or less)	100% of the full course cost will be retained

Insurance cover for the visit has been obtained from RPA Insurance. Should you wish to see the summary of the Insurance cover, this is available via the school website.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, preferably via email.

Yours faithfully

Mr N Duckworth  
Lead Visit Coordinator

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