



September 2026

Residential trip to “Le CHÂTEAU DE LA BAUDONNIÈRE” Monday 15th March – Saturday 20th March 2027

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is excited to offer a residential trip to **Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy** for our current Year 7 students. This is a fantastic trip that we have been running very successfully for several years. Although all Year 7 students are currently studying Spanish, they will switch to French after February half-term, giving them time to learn the basics in the language.

The trip will take place from **Monday 15th March 2027** (departing at 2:15am) to **Saturday 20th March 2027** (returning to school at 1:00am).

The Château de la Baudonnière is located in Normandy. The estate features a farmyard, a lake and river, woodland, and meadows. Students will be accommodated in small dormitories and will enjoy high-quality French meals. Most dietary requirements can be accommodated.

The Château offers a full French language immersion experience. All activities at the centre are designed to encourage the use of practical spoken French, and students will be urged to speak French as much as possible. The immersive, friendly French environment supports this approach, providing an excellent opportunity for your child to practice hearing and speaking the language. **Students will participate in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities**, including canoeing, orienteering, fencing, bread-making, and treasure hunts. There will also be evening French games and quizzes, along with two exciting day trips: one to **Le Mont Saint-Michel** and another to **Saint-Malo**, with a visit to **Saint Hilaire’s market**.

Travel to the Château will be by coach from school to Portsmouth, followed by a ferry crossing to either Cherbourg or Caen (depending on the final arrangements). The crossing will take 6 hours, after which we will travel by coach for about 90 minutes to the Château.

The total cost for the trip is **£670**, which covers travel, accommodation, meals, activities, equipment, and teaching materials.

Your child will need their own passport, a **GHIC card**, and, if applicable, a **valid ETIAS visa** at the time of travel. **NOTE: The passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the return date (21st June 2027).**

If you would like your child to be considered for this trip, please complete the attached form and return it to **Main Reception** by **Thursday 15th October 2026**, along with a **non-refundable deposit** of **£100**.

Please note that places are limited to 50 students. If the trip is oversubscribed, a fair method of selection will be used. If your child has not been selected, their name will be put on a reserve list and the deposit refunded. **All students have been informed that good behaviour and commitment to learning** in school are essential for securing a place on this trip.

Once your child's place has been confirmed, we will send out further details regarding the **second** (£350 due Thursday 5th November 2026) and **third** (£220 due Thursday 7th January 2027) payments, along with a date for a **Parent Information Evening**.

All payments should be made online via **SCOPAY** – Trips & Events – **Year 7 French Trip 2027**. SCOPAY is available as an app for both Apple and Android devices. If you do not yet have a SCOPAY account, please email app@wigstonmat.org to request a link code.

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding and you would like to request a contribution towards the cost of this trip, please let me know by emailing me on sdubois@wigstonmat.org. Please note that this funding can only be applied towards the third payment.

We will soon provide a presentation link for this trip on our school website. Additionally, you can view a library of photos from previous Wigston Academy trips on our school Facebook page under **Normandy photos**.

Should you have any questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Dubois
MFL Teacher & Trip Leader



REPLY SLIP

CHÂTEAU DE LA BAUDONNIÈRE
Monday 15th March – Saturday 20 March 2027

Child's Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

I would like my child to take part in the above school trip.

I confirm that I have paid the non-refundable deposit of £100 via SCOPAY.

If you do not have a SCOPAY account please email app@wigstonmat.org to request a link code.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signed: _____

(Person with legal responsibility for child)

Date: _____

Deadline for completed reply slip and payment to be returned to main reception or MFL department is Thursday 15th October 2026