



October 2025

CHÂTEAU DE LA BAUDONNIÈRE

Monday 16th March – Saturday 21st March 2026

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. The trip will take place from **Monday 16th March to Saturday 21st March 2026**, with an early morning return.

The Château is located in Normandy, 90 minutes south of Cherbourg. The estate features an orchard, a farmyard, a lake and river, woodland, and meadows. Students will be accommodated in small dormitories and will enjoy high-quality French meals in the centre's dining room. 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 **Dinan'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 approximately 4-5 hours, after which we will travel by coach to the Château in Normandy.

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

The full price of the trip is £630, which includes travel, accommodation, meals, activities, equipment, and teaching materials at the Château. Students are advised to bring a packed lunch or sufficient funds to cover refreshments during their journey to and from the Château.

Please ensure your child has a valid 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 March 2026).**

If you would like your child to be considered for this trip, please complete the attached reply slip and return it to **Main Reception** by **Tuesday 14th October 2025**, and also ensure you have paid your **non-refundable deposit** of **£100** via SCOPAY.

Please note that spaces are limited. If the trip is oversubscribed, a fair method of selection will be used, and any deposits will be refunded to parents whose children are not selected. Should this trip be undersubscribed then it will not run and all deposits will be refunded.

All students have been informed that good behaviour and academic performance in school are essential for securing a place on this trip.

Once the trip is confirmed, we will send out further details regarding the **second** (£300 due Friday 5th December 2025) and **third** (£230 due Friday 9th January 2026) payments, along with a date for a **Parent Information Evening**.

All payments should be made online via **SCOPAY** – Trips & Events – **Year 7 French Trip 2026**. 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 free school meals and you would like to request a contribution towards the cost of this trip, please contact **Miss P. Chapaneri** at pchapaneri@wigstonmat.org. Please note that this funding can only be applied towards the third payment.

Parent communication will be via the school app and trip updates will be via social media.

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 16th March – Saturday 21st March 2026

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 Tuesday 14th October 2025