Dear Parents/Caregivers

The following details relate to the 2014 overseas excursion to France, which is being organised for students by GCCC.

- **Destination**
  France: Paris, the Somme (Western Front) and Normandy

- **Times and dates of departure and return**
  Tickets are booked for:
  Group 1 (Cathay Pacific)
  - Depart Brisbane Thursday 18 September, 9.05am;
  - Arrive Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris Friday 19 September 7.55am
  - Return Trip:
  - Depart Charles de Gaulle airport Monday 29 September at 1.15pm;
  - Arrive Brisbane airport Tuesday 30 September 11.25pm

  Group 2 (Etihad/Air France)
  - Depart Brisbane Thursday 18 September, 12.45pm.
  - Arrive Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris Friday 19 September at 7.50am.
  - Return Trip:
  - Depart Charles de Gaulle airport Monday 29 September 7.20pm;
  - Arrive Brisbane airport Wednesday 1 October, 9.15am

- **Excursion outline/Itinerary – See attached document for a more detailed itinerary**
  Day 1 – Arrive, visit small local town
  Day 2 - Paris
  Day 3 - Paris
  Day 4 – Euro Disney
  Day 5 – Palais de Versailles
  Day 6 – Château de Fontainebleau
  Day 7 – Sommes, Villers Bretonneux
  Day 8 – La Défense, Catacombs and the Ballet
  Day 9 – 11 – Normandy – Jublains, roman fortress, Mont St Michel, Fougères

- **Mode of travel and route**
  Whilst in France – all transport will be by a tour group bus for our school group only. Appropriate student/staff ratios will always be in place. The bus will bring the group to all venues/destinations and return the group at the end of each visit.

- **Purpose of the excursion**
  - For French language students - To extend students’ French language abilities and understanding of French culture. To practice their French in authentic contexts.
➢ For Secondary History students – To give first-hand experience of historical sites of important modern and ancient significance. It will build understandings of the various historical sites, events and contexts that many of their class topics cover.

➢ For Dance, Art and Drama students – it will give a rich exposure to the Arts – and an opportunity to see first hand artifacts or events of a high standard and of international value.

• **Nature of activities to be undertaken during the excursion**
  Due to the variety of students travelling on this trip, the nature of the full itinerary will give all students exposure to activities and sites that may cross all subjects or at times lean more towards one subject area. However, it is intended that the resulting overall exposure to the various itinerary items will enrich all students. There may be occasion where one group of students with a particular subject have a slight variation e.g. – Disneyland – Dance students will experience a ‘Behind the scenes’ tour to have exposure to the career opportunities afforded in this work environment from their subject area.

• **Accommodation arrangements**
  The entire group will stay at Château de Grande Romain Paris for the first 8 days and then move to Château de Tertre for the remaining 2 days. Students will share multi-bedded rooms with ensuites.

• **Name of the Team Leader**
  Mrs Jacq Vreeling – Head of Middle School

• **Names of other teacher/leader/s, and accompanying adults**
  Lorelle Fisher - Parent
  Amanda Gook - Head of English and Humanities
  Lee-Anne Gordon - French teacher
  Beryl Morris – Secondary teacher/librarian
  John Vreeling – GCCC staff member (husband of Jacq Vreeling)
  Stacey Whyte (Head of Performing Arts)

• **Vaccinations**
  No vaccinations are required for this country.

• **Equipment and clothing needed**
  Please see attached list.

• **Food requirements**
  All meals are included. There will be occasions when it will be necessary for the school to purchase additional meals. At these points the meal will be a standard choice – if students would like to purchase over and above this they will be allowed to but **at their own cost**.

• **Anticipated expenses**
  Any other snacks students wish to purchase.
  Spending money for personal gifts and souvenirs. Our recommendation is that an amount of EUR25 (AUD30) per day is ample for spending. However, we will leave this to the discretion of each student/family.

• **Details of cost including refundable and non-refundable monies**
  The total cost of the trip, including airfares, accommodation, all transport costs, entrance fees to sites and travel insurance is approximately $4250.00. This cannot be specifically set due to the conversion rate of the EUR from AUD. This amount will be finalised on the July 1 2014.
  A non-refundable deposit of $2500.00 was due in February.
  Final payments need to be made by Wednesday 22 July.
  After this date only entrance fees can be refunded as the other portions of the trip will have been paid in full and are not refundable from the providers.

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Special rules applicable to the excursion

All students are not allowed to be without a supervising adult at any time. Students must be in visible distance (around 10 – 20 metres) of a GCCC adult at any point in time except when in their own cabins or on a Disneyworld ride.

At the discretion of a supervising adult, personal items may be confiscated e.g. an IT device if a student is using it inappropriately or any other item that has raised concern by the student’s use.

Once bedtime has been set, students must remain within their cabins until the set time to get up and get going. If a student has an issue, they are allowed to go directly to a staff member’s cabin/room.

Students must take particular note of specific rules that apply to a tourist venue (e.g. Louvre) – such as no purchasing at the shop in this time, no photos to be taken at this venue etc. These rules will be fully explained to students prior to entry to the venue.

Procedures for dealing with unacceptable behaviour. These procedures should include the possibility of exclusion and return home to Australia of students.

In all minor incidents, students may be excluded from an activity/activities or need to remain with a particular group or staff member.

In an extreme circumstance, the Principal will be contacted and if it is deemed by the Principal that the behaviour is unacceptable and requires an immediate return, the parents will be notified and the school will purchase a return ticket. The student will then be escorted back to Australia by one of the adults at the parent’s expense. (Sufficient adults are on this trip to action this if necessary.)

Means of contact with the group

One staff phone will have global roaming. This international number will be provided to parents and students. A local SIM card will be purchased for several of the staff phones. These numbers will be placed on the website.

Students will be able to Viber or Skype and Facebook via the Wi-Fi option on their personal phones. The set times for this option will be given in the ‘Last info Note’ given out one week before we leave.

Emergency contacts and procedures in the event of a critical incident

In the event of a critical incident, the Principal of GCCC will be notified. Depending upon the circumstances, relevant parents/families will be notified by the school personnel.

If the whole group is involved, parents will be notified and given regular updates as to the outcome and/or changed plans. Communication will be generally through the principal or designated school personnel.

In the event that a family needs to urgently contact the group this should be done through the College or via the designated international roaming phone contact.

Staff accompanying students on overseas excursions will take all reasonable care while the students are in their charge to protect them from injury and to control and supervise their behaviour and activities.

Parents should be aware that staff members are not responsible for injuries or damage to property, which may occur on an excursion where, in all circumstances, staff have not been negligent. Parents should warn children of the risk to themselves, to others and to property, of impulsive, wilful or disobedient behaviour.

The school has made every effort to keep costs for this activity to a reasonable level.

Attached is the GCCC French Trip Permission Form to be completed and returned to the College no later than Friday 4 April 2014. An individual medical report with emergency contact numbers and medical requirements will be given out prior to the trip. This way we will ensure all information is up to date and accurate.

Yours faithfully

PRINCIPAL

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