

## Practicalities 2017

### **Internet, Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices**

It is strongly recommended that families do not contact the student more than once a week (or twice at most). Our experience shows that daily contact leads to students becoming homesick, and not engaging fully in the experience of learning French (it is normal to feel frustrated and upset after a few days of speaking a foreign language, but this soon passes if contact with home is not too frequent).

Our course is intended to follow Steiner principles; we try to give the students a real experience of French life, and we would prefer it if they are not 'virtually' somewhere else!

Use of mobile phones, MP3 players or other electronic devices by students is not permitted inside the school or during outings organised as part of the programme. If students have a mobile phone, it must be switched off. Any electronic device used during the day will be taken by the teacher/course leader and returned at the end of the day. The teacher/course leader carries a mobile phone and parents can call this number in an emergency.

### **Laundry**

Bedding and towels are provided, and the host family will either wash the students' clothes (at least once a week), or provide washing and drying facilities for the students to do this themselves.

### **Illness**

Should a student be ill, the host family informs the course co-ordinator. If there are any medical problems the host families, being 'in loco parentis', will treat students as they would their own family, i.e. treat them at home for minor illness, and use the family doctor or the A&E department at the hospital for more serious matters or emergencies. We will, of course, inform the family if a student is ill, or has an accident, but we ask parents to fill in the Parental Consent Form, detailing your preferences for treatment, in case it is not possible to contact you before treatment is needed.

### **Pocket Money**

There are several outings to cities and places of interest, where students may want to buy refreshments and souvenirs.

### **Supervision**

During course times and on outings, students are supervised by staff from the Steiner school – 2 adults share responsibility for each group of 15 students. Staff have parents' mobile numbers and will contact them as soon as possible in an emergency. Students and parents are asked to sign our Charter on enrolment, agreeing to follow our School Rules while at the Summer School.

### **French Licensing & Smoking Laws**

In France it is forbidden by law to sell alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco to under 18s. You can enter a café/bar if you are aged 14-18 if the bar manager allows you, but only to drink non-alcoholic drinks. It is illegal to smoke in a public place (this includes all public transport, cafés, shops etc.). Our school is a totally smoke-free zone, and this includes the grounds. Most of our host families are also non-smokers, so if students smoke, they may be asked to do so outside. Anyone who appears to be under 25 may be asked for identification if they try to buy either alcohol or cigarettes.