

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Students in current Year 9,

### YEAR 10 FRENCH LANGUAGE TRIP 2024 – ESSAOUIRA, MOROCCO

I am delighted to invite your son to sign up to take part in our inaugural French Language trip to North Africa in February 2024. This is an incredible new opportunity that we believe will offer students a real chance to flourish. Our provisional plan will see us leaving early morning **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024** and returning early evening on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. We will be arranging an online information launch meeting and Q&A for anyone keen to know more on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1815**. Deadline for sign up will be 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

We are going to the beautiful seaside town of Essaouira on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, staying in Hotel Maison du Sud, located in the heart of the historic Medina. Boys will sleep in shared rooms of four boys, with a bathroom. All meals are included - breakfast will be served in the hotel with lunch and evening meals in local establishments in central Essaouira.

This trip will be extremely beneficial for all boys, giving them an opportunity to experience the food and culture of Francophone North Africa at first hand, to improve their spoken and written French and to look at some of the history of the area. This is also a wonderful trip for personal development and character building. The programme includes a substantial amount of language tuition at the French Institute in Essaouira. There will also be some fabulous cultural activities, including cooking, which will be a wonderful opportunity to learn. All pupils will be expected to take a full part in the language and cultural programme.

The provisional programme for the five days is:

- **Friday:** Meet at RGS, coach to Airport, flight to Morocco.
- **Saturday:** Morning lessons at the French Institute, afternoon tour of the town and experience Moroccan shopping in the medina, view the fortifications and the Jewish cemetery, relax on the beach.
- **Sunday:** Morning lessons at the French Institute, afternoon guided market visit to buy ingredients for the evening activity, evening, Moroccan cooking lesson and meal.
- **Monday:** Morning lessons at the French Institute, afternoon tour of the fort, optional visit to the Mosque, visit to Argan farm.
- **Tuesday:** Return to the UK, pickup at the airport.

The cost of the trip will be approx. £670, depending on final numbers. This covers ALL transport (coach and ferry) High Wycombe - Morocco – Arrival in the UK, full board and lodging in Morocco, ALL excursions and entry fees within the five days and travel insurance.

If you would like your son to take part in this trip, please log onto ParentPay, look up **Essaouira 2024**, and pay the initial deposit of £50 by **Monday 17th April**. Further payments will be due as follows:

£160 by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

£160 by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

£160 by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Balance by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

There are 30 spaces available which will be allocated firstly to any student who will be taking French to GCSE from next year onwards, then on a first come first served basis. With this in mind, the Parent Pay list of availability will show as 40 places from which 30 will be chosen followed by the reserve list. This is a new and exciting trip, so places are likely to sell out long before the deadline. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method. We appreciate that some boys will be disappointed but we are unable to take more than 30 due to the size of the hotel and the capacity available at the French Institute.

This is a wonderful opportunity for RGS boys to experience some of the culture of Francophone North Africa. We are aware that this may be the first time that some of our boys have visited an Islamic country, and that some boys will be keen to make the most of the chance to attend a place of worship. We will make every effort to ensure that they are able to do so if they wish.

*If you feel that the cost involved is prohibitive, please do contact me in strictest confidence and I will see if there is any funding available to assist you. We may also be able to arrange an alternative payment plan. Please note, as the School is required to make non-refundable payments to the trip provider, we would not be able to make any refunds should you withdraw your son from the trip once his place is confirmed, unless we can find a replacement.*

**Please ensure your son has a full valid passport by October 2023 as you will need to submit his passport number to us in advance of the trip. If he requires a visa for entry into Morocco please contact me. It will also be vital to ensure that all travel vaccinations are up to date.**

If you have any queries, please contact me – [nrg@rgshw.com](mailto:nrg@rgshw.com).

Yours faithfully,

*Mr N R Geering*

Subject Leader: French

Trip Leader