Ref: LPE/PAR16/08

18th July 2016



Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: KS3 Visit to Paris, 22nd - 25th July 2016

I have received a few requests for an update regarding the visit to Paris following the incident in Nice last week, and therefore thought it might be useful to provide the following update.

I am continuing to closely monitor the national security status in France, and whilst France remains on high alert with increased security in place, the same can be said for the United Kingdom at this time. The unfortunate incident in France took place in Nice on the south coast of France which is substantially further from Paris than we are in Birmingham. We currently have no information that would lead us to believe that we would be putting students in any additional danger by proceeding with this visit as planned, and we would of course make any changes necessary should this change in any way.

Please let me assure you that the safety of your children and our staff is my absolute top priority; I will be following the updates of the UK and French governments and affiliated organisations and reacting as, when, and however needed to maintain their wellbeing. I would inform parents of any major changes to our itinerary/timings through the Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/q3_lpe) if this became necessary.

I hope that this has somewhat put your mind at ease. I understand that it can be unsettling to hear of news such as this so close to the time of trips, but rest assured, the safety and security of students ahead of, and whilst on, an educational visit is of paramount importance and is carefully reviewed by the Academy, Sandwell Local Education Authority, and I.

The question has been asked regarding the right to withdraw from the visit; this decision ultimately rests with you, it is completely understandable that you need to feel fully comfortable with all aspects of the trip. As there is no governmental guidance to cancel educational visits to France, nor is this the guidance of Sandwell Local Education authority, we would be unable to claim a refund for the visit through our insurers. However, should you decide that this is the best option for your child then please confirm this in writing.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail: LPrice@q3academy.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Price Visit Leader & Lead Professional for Modern Foreign Languages

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