

27 April 2026

Dear Families

German Trip to Aachen and Cologne - Saturday 05 December - Tuesday 08 December 2026

The Languages Department is delighted to offer the opportunity to enhance their study of the language and culture of Germany with a trip to Aachen and Cologne, from Saturday 05 December to Tuesday 08 December 2026. The trip is aimed at our current Year 9 German students who have opted for GCSE from September 2026 and current Year 8 German students who aim to study German at GCSE in the future. The onus of the trip is on practising their speaking skills and soaking up as much German culture as possible.

The trip will see students enjoy visits to the Christmas markets in Aachen and Cologne, where some of the biggest, most beautiful and iconic Christmas markets in the world can be found. Students will also visit Aachen Cathedral, one of the oldest cathedrals in Europe, and its treasury as well as the cathedral in Cologne, which is Germany's most visited landmark, attracting six million people a year. It will also give the pupils the chance to scale the more than 500 steps to reach the top of the South Tower and appreciate glorious views of Germany's fourth-largest city. What visit to Aachen would be complete without experiencing Lindt chocolate, a subsidiary outlet for the Swiss chocolatier? Students will have the opportunity to visit a factory outlet too.

We are delighted to offer this upcoming cultural trip, which provides a wonderful opportunity for students to broaden their horizons and experience new environments outside the classroom. As this is an optional enrichment visit, we rely on family contributions to make it possible; please be aware that the trip can only proceed if we receive full commitment and funding from our community.

The cost of the visit, which is inclusive of the return coach journey, half-board accommodation (breakfast and dinner) in a hotel, and all excursions, is estimated to be £563 per student. We do not anticipate this cost going up; although, as prices cannot be fixed until a deposit has been paid, we do advise families to keep an extra £50 available should the costs increase.

To secure your child's place, an initial deposit of £100 is required. This deposit is non-refundable, and any subsequent payments can only be returned if they have not yet been committed to the tour provider. We want to ensure this adventure is accessible to all, so we have reserved a specific number of spaces for our Pupil Premium students.

Following this, the payment schedule below will apply:

Amount:	By:	Notes
£100	Wednesday 29 April 2026	Initial Deposit Payment
£100	Wednesday 27 May 2026	
£100	Saturday 27 June 2026	

£100	Monday 27 July 2026	
£100	Thursday 27 August 2026	
£63	Sunday 27 September 2026	Final Payment

We never want the price to be a barrier to members of our Sackville community accessing trips and visits, and, if you require some assistance in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium and would like to attend, please express your interest to Miss Barnes - kbarnes@mysackville.co.uk by Wednesday 29 April 2026. Should these reserved spaces not be filled, we will reach out to families on our waiting list to ensure as many students as possible can join us on this exciting journey.

As outlined in our Culture for Learning policy, on rare occasions we may have to remove a student from a trip who is unable to meet our high expectations or whose behaviour puts themselves or others at risk.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail to cthompson@sackvilleschool.org.uk. We look forward to an enjoyable and memorable trip.

Yours sincerely

Mr Craig Thompson
Trip Leader and Teacher of Languages