

Château de la Baudonnière

The Château is situated in the region of La Manche in Normandy. It is 90 minutes from Cherbourg and Caen, 15 minutes from Avranches, Villedieu-les-Poêles, the local beaches and the fishing port of Granville and 30 minutes from Coutances and Le Mont St Michel.

The Château nestles in 90 acres of its own grounds which incorporate an orchard and cider press, boule pitch, farmyard, a lake for fishing and canoeing, a river, an assault course and climbing wall, archery range, woodland and meadows, volleyball court and stables.

It can accommodate up to 160 pupils plus accompanying staff in comfortable modern rooms with excellent (mostly en suite) bathroom facilities.



Château de la Baudonnière

La Philosophie

The Château is all about French language immersion. Everything that is done at the Château involves using practical spoken French to convey meaning, and the children are encouraged to speak French to get what they want. A friendly, French environment supports this philosophy.

As one of our party leaders said: 'The classroom situation is always artificial to some degree. Here my pupils know its for real. If they know that when they want something, they have to ask for it in French, they will do it!'

The pupils leave after our full week programme having had a great time in a fun but educational environment. Their ability to speak French will have improved substantially but more importantly pupils will have the confidence to use French and they will understand the practical benefits of learning and using the language. We hope this translates to having pupils who are both more able and more motivated back in the classroom on your return.

L'Histoire

1990 - It was a rainy day in Cherbourg. The headteacher of Riverston School was checking out pupils on an exchange visit. As he wandered through the town he was surprised to come across two pupils, looking bored, bedraggled and more than a little dispirited.

They explained that their hosts were out at work, so they had been given sandwiches, shown a bus stop and sent into town, with instructions to return at supper time.

The headteacher, Michael Lewis, was less than impressed. He resolved, then and there that some better way should be found to introduce his young charges to the joys of France and speaking French.

He found it. Château de la Baudonnière, and lovingly set about the task of converting it into a spacious centre of excellence for learning. Surrounded by forest with its own lake and a river that runs through it, the result is just perfect. Groups of Riverston pupils still use it regularly but other schools can go there too!



La Philosophie, mise en pratique

A balanced programme, by the end of your stay, will have approximately divided your group's time equally between French lessons, activities, excursions and evening events. It will take account of the age and French ability of the pupils, your own aims and preferences, and the experience of our management team in delivering programmes that work.



CHATEAU DE LA BAUDONNIERE

Le Français

Over the last nine years, our experienced native French teachers have developed over 500 different games, drama and creative sessions to motivate pupils of all different ages and abilities. We also help the pupils with their French during their journal writing in the evenings and at meals where we eat in French style!

Les Activités - journalières et les Soirées

Activities include; Aeroball, Escalade, Parcours de Santé, Exercice d'Initiative, et Kayak. Each activity concentrates on a specific area of French language (eg Escalade = body parts and movement commands) and includes a formal language de-briefing. Evenings include camp fire, quizzes and Bar-B-Q as well as our famous French talent show & French evening.



Les Visites Locales

The Normandy beaches and Bayeux tapestry are not far away, but Le Mont St Michel, the beaches, our local farms and zoo and the market at Villedieu and St Hilaire are all less than twenty minutes from our Château. Groups normally spend 1 or 1 1/2 days out on visits...

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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www.the-chateau.com