



# ABINGDON

From Jane Mansfield: Head of French

30 August 2012

Dear Parents

## French exchange 2012 – 2013

Following this year's successful and enjoyable exchange with the Lycée "La Nativité" on the outskirts of Aix-en-Provence, we are pleased to announce that the French department is arranging another exchange with the same school next year.

Aix-en-Provence is a vibrant, attractive city in the deep South of France about 20 miles away from the Mediterranean coast. This year, as well as enjoying wonderful hospitality from the boys and girls at "La Nativité", we got to know Aix well, and visited Marseille, Nîmes and the surrounding area, including the spectacular Pont du Gard and the mediaeval castle of Baux de Provence. Many different activities including visits to the coast were on the programme for boys during the weekend spent with their host families.

The 2012 - 2013 exchange is open to all boys studying French in the fourth and fifth years. We are keen to have as many pupils participating as possible since, not only does it give them an invaluable insight into French culture, it would also help them tremendously for their IGCSE exams. We therefore hope many of you will make the most of this great opportunity.

The first leg of the exchange, during which the French party comes to stay with us, will be during term time. This will not disrupt your son's timetable, as the French party will be going on visits during the day or staying at school with us to attend a few lessons. Your involvement during this part of the exchange will be to look after a French pupil. This leg will take place between Friday 1 and Friday 8 March 2013.

The second leg of the exchange, during which our party goes and stays in French families, will be between Friday 5 and Friday 12 April 2013. These are provisional dates but will only vary by a day or two depending on travel arrangements. Your son will be more or less in total French immersion during that week and a great deal of learning takes place. Please note that this is the same week as the 4<sup>th</sup> year rowing camp, so any boys participating in this camp will not be able to participate in the second leg of the French exchange.

The provisional cost of the trip is £375, which will include all transport, transfers, trips and insurance cover. If your son takes the school bus, you will need to check if there is a spare place for his exchange partner, if not you will need to make other arrangements for the week when the French party is at Abingdon. Many of the buses are likely to be full so please make sure you contact Tom Peeke, the joint bus coordinator, at the beginning of the Michaelmas term to find out. His e-mail address is [admin@jointbus.co.uk](mailto:admin@jointbus.co.uk).

The exchange school is mixed and we therefore need to find families willing to accommodate a girl. If you wish your son to be involved in this trip, please secure his place by returning the attached form by **Friday 21 September 2012 with a non-refundable deposit cheque for £100** (payable to Abingdon school), being sure to indicate if you would be happy for your son to be paired with a girl. The remaining £275 will be added to your school bill at the end of the Michaelmas term.

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If you have any questions or queries regarding this trip, please contact me at school either by e-mail: [jane.mansfield@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:jane.mansfield@abingdon.org.uk) or telephone and I will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Jane Mansfield  
Head of French



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### **French Exchange reply slip**

*If you are interested in taking part in the exchange, please return this slip to JAM by Friday 21 September 2012.*

I would like my son .....(current tutor group: .....) to take part in the French exchange.

*delete as appropriate:*

- I would be happy for my son to be paired with a girl and do not mind accommodating a girl.
- or:*
- I would prefer my son to be paired with a boy.

### **I enclose a cheque for £100 payable to Abingdon School**

*or:*

- My son cannot go to France at Easter but we would be happy to be a host family to a boy / a girl / either

**In this case, there is no need to include a deposit cheque.**

Signature of parent or guardian: