



# ABINGDON

12 March 2010

*To: parents of boys in 3<sup>d</sup> year studying German*

*German Exchange 2010/11*

As every year we are again organising an exchange visit to Germany and I am writing to give you some preliminary information.

The German exchange is undertaken jointly with girls from St Helen's School and our hosts in Germany are the pupils and their parents at the Ratsgymnasium, a co-educational grammar school in Bielefeld. The link between the two English schools and the Ratsgymnasium is very firmly established and many successful visits have already taken place. In 2007 we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The value of such an exchange cannot be overstated. The pupils acquire first-hand knowledge of the country whose language they are studying and the fluency they gain is an invaluable asset at both GCSE and Advanced Level. Great care is taken to place pupils with appropriate families. However, you should be aware that individual circumstances might vary. For instance transport arrangements will not necessarily be the same as your own and your son will enjoy discovering a different daily routine. Although the majority of the time will be spent accompanied by members of Abingdon staff, either within the school or on group excursions, your son will spend a significant amount of time with his host family, when there will always be a member of our staff at the end of a telephone. Possible excursions include trips to Münster, Bremen, the local theatre, the ice rink and cinema. The boys will also spend time in lessons at the host school. A highlight of the week is the traditional England vs. Germany football match for the boys!

This year the German party will be with us for ten days from 3 – 13 of October, returning to Bielefeld before the half-term holiday. It is worth pointing out that boys travelling to school by bus will need to ensure there is capacity on their route. The English party will be in Germany approximately 12 – 21 February (dates to be confirmed), which runs into the beginning of the half term holiday. The cost of the exchange will be approximately £325 to include all travel costs, excursions and insurance. The exact cost will depend on the number of participants, the exchange rate and fuel taxes but we anticipate that £325 should suffice.

I would like to stress that the German exchange is only open to boys in their fourth year at Abingdon (i.e. current third year boys). If you would like your son to take part in the exchange would you please complete and return the attached slip, including a non-refundable deposit of £50 made payable to ABINGDON SCHOOL, by **Wednesday 24 March** at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Revill  
Modern Languages Department

Abingdon School Park Road Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 1DE

Telephone: 01235 521563 Facsimile: 01235 536449

German Exchange 2010/11

**To: Mr N. Revill**

Son's name..... Tutor .....

Son's German teacher .....

I would like my son to participate in the 2010/11 German Exchange to Bielefeld.

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £50 made out to ABINGDON SCHOOL.

Signed..... Date:.....

Abingdon School Park Road Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 1DE

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