



From: French Teacher: Maud Cottrell

11 September 2015

Dear Parents,

### **Reminder - French exchange 2015-2016**

Following this year's successful 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 2015 - 2016 exchange will be open to all boys studying French in the fourth year. 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 examinations. We therefore hope many of you will make the most of this great opportunity.

The first leg of the exchange, during which our party goes and stays in French families, will take place between Friday 25 March and Friday 1 April 2016. 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 during the first week of the Easter holiday and that Sunday 27 March is Easter Sunday. This is also the same week as the CCF camp, so any boys participating in this camp will not be able to participate in the first leg of the French exchange.

The second leg of the exchange, during which the French party comes to stay with us will be during term time between Friday 6 May and Friday 13 May 2016. 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.

The provisional cost of the trip is £380 based on last year's experience but the price may vary slightly depending on transport, the final itinerary and the numbers of pupils signing up to this trip. The final cost 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).

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The exchange school is mixed and we therefore need to find families willing to accommodate a girl.

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

Yours sincerely

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