



ABINGDON

From Maud Cottrell

26 June 2015

Dear Parents,

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 next year's 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 13 May and Friday 20 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

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find out. His e-mail address is 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 **Thursday 2 July 2015**, being sure to indicate if you would be happy for your son to be paired with a girl. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **A non-refundable deposit of £100 will be added to your school bill at the end of this term.** The remaining £280 will be added to your school bill at the end of the Michaelmas term.

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

Yours sincerely

Maud Cottrell



French Exchange reply slip

*If you are interested in taking part in the exchange, **please return this slip to MFFC by Thursday 2 July 2015**. Please note that by completing the consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip. The non-refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.*

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 understand that a non-refundable deposit of £100 will be added to my school bill at the end of the summer term (July 2015)

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 May.

In this case, no deposit will be billed.

Signature of parent or guardian: