



# ABINGDON

From Maud Cottrell

1 July 2016

Dear Parents,

## **French exchange 2016-2017**

Following eleven years of successful exchanges 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, Arles and the surrounding area, including the spectacular Pont du Gard. Many different activities including visits to the coast were on the programme for boys during the weekend spent with their host families.

The 2016 - 2017 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 will 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 the French party comes to stay with us will be during term time. The provisional date is between Friday 3 March and Friday 10 March 2017. 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 in the evenings and at the weekend.

The second leg of the exchange, during which our party goes and stays in French families, will take place between Friday 31 March and Friday 7 April 2017. These are also 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 this is also the same week as the CCF camp, so any boys participating in this camp will not be able to participate in this leg of the French exchange. However they can host a French exchange partner if they wish to.

The provisional cost of the trip is £390 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).

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 **Monday 4 July 2016**, 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 £290 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](mailto:maud.cottrell@abingdon.org.uk) or telephone and I will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Maud Cottrell  
French teacher

[maud.cottrell@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:maud.cottrell@abingdon.org.uk)



#### French Exchange reply slip

*If you are interested in taking part in the exchange, **please return this slip to Maud Cottrell by Monday 4 July 2016.** 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 ..... to take part in the French exchange.

#### Please tick 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 by the end of this term to secure a place.**

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 March.

**In this case, no deposit will be billed.**

*Signature of parent or guardian:*