



From the German Exchange Organiser: Alexandra Cardinal von Widdern

18 June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### ***German Exchange 2022***

Finally, we can begin to organise again the opportunity for all Germanists who are currently in the third AND fourth year to participate in the exchange visit to Germany.

The exchange is the most important opportunity in a student's time at Abingdon to practise their German and learn about the culture in situ. The students acquire first-hand knowledge of the country whose language they are studying and the fluency and confidence many gain is an invaluable asset for life as well as IGCSE and 6<sup>th</sup> form study.

Great care is taken to place students with appropriate partners and families. The majority of the time will be spent accompanied by members of Abingdon staff, either within the school or on group excursions. In addition, the students will spend a significant amount of time with their host family, when there will always be a member of our staff at the end of a telephone. Likely excursions include trips to the university town of Paderborn and the interactive Nixdorf Technology museum, the city of Dortmund and its interactive football museum, the local theatre, the local bouldering and climbing centre and a tour of Dr. Oetker World. The students will also spend time experiencing lessons at the host school. A highlight of the week is always the traditional England vs. Germany football match.

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 highly reputable co-educational grammar school in Bielefeld. The link between the two English schools and the Ratsgymnasium has been firmly established for over 50 successful years.

**The dates are the following: The German party will be with us for ten days from Sunday 16 January to Wednesday 26 January 2022. The English party will be in Germany from Wednesday 16 to Thursday 24 February 2022 which runs into the half term holiday.** The cost of the exchange will be approximately £520 and includes all travel costs, excursions, potential group visas and insurance. The exact cost will depend on the number of participants, the exchange rate, flight prices and fuel taxes.

I would like to stress that only for this year, the German exchange is open to students in their then fourth and fifth year at Abingdon (i.e. current third and fourth year students), as we are trying to give the year group that would have lost out due to Covid a chance to participate. We hope that all will consider this opportunity. Please complete the online form (link below) by **Friday 2 July 2021** at the latest. Please note that you will need a copy of your child's passport which needs to be valid at least until 25/08/2022.

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[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

[Online consent form link](#)

Yours sincerely,

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### **Additional information**

Please note that by completing the online consent form (providing the trip proceeds) you are committing to the total cost of this trip being added to your July 2021 bill. The School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deal - mindful of changes due to Brexit and potential disruption due to Covid, the school is taking all reasonable measures to limit the potential financial impact of cancellations or fluctuations in the exchange rate. Nonetheless it is not possible to eliminate all the risk. To be fair to all parties, as a precaution, rather than include extra contingency provisions which may not be required, the School reserves the right to vary the trip price for any unpaid elements of the trip, if at the date of final payment there has been a significant change in the Euro/£ exchange rate.

Please also note that every effort will be made to accommodate your child and partner on the joint bus service during that time but JBS cannot guarantee this in advance. In rare cases in the past, they have offered an alternative route to some students.

Due to government's update on Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) statutory guidance, the School is obliged to obtain a criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for all supervising adults (in most cases the parents or guardians) who are resident in the accommodation where the exchange student is to stay as part of a school organised trip. School will bear the cost of this DBS check and we will do all we can to facilitate the administration of the DBS checks.

In order to complete a DBS check, all supervising adults will need to make a 15-20 minute appointment to come into school to see the HR team by **Friday 24 September 2021**. The normal working hours of the HR team are 8.30am - 5.30pm Monday-Friday. This is to allow enough time for the check to be completed, as the completed DBS check must be received before the arrival of the German party for you to be allowed to host.

If you have any further questions about the DBS checks, please do not hesitate to contact either Mark Hindley ([mark.hindley@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:mark.hindley@abingdon.org.uk)) or the HR Department ([hr.team@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:hr.team@abingdon.org.uk)) whereas questions about the exchange should be addressed to me at [alexandra.widdern@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:alexandra.widdern@abingdon.org.uk)

**Should your child's passport require renewal, please upload a scan of the new passport to the online amendable form by the end of the Michaelmas term 2021 at the latest.**