



23 September 2022

Dear Parents,

Year 10 French Exchange Trip – March 2023

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is planning a French Language Exchange with Lycée Jean Guéhenno, our partner school in Fougères. We are offering this exchange to students studying French in Year 10. This is a great opportunity to develop the students' linguistic skills and their confidence in the language.

For the exchange, we aim to match students with similar interests so that their stay as part of the family enables them not only to practice their language skills but also helps them to fully experience the French way of life. A profile form will follow soon and will need to be completed by every student on the exchange.

In France, during the day, when the French students are at school, excursions to places of interest will be arranged, and could include the following: Mont Saint-Michel/ Chateau de Fougères/ Saint-Brice-en-Coglès/ Saint-Malo. Our students will be accompanied on these trips by members of staff from the Piggott School. Students will also experience French school life by spending some time in our partner school. The rest of the time, in the evening and at weekends, the students will be with their exchange partner and family who often organise extra activities for them. The same arrangement will apply when the French students come here. As a host family you will be responsible for offering board and lodging and for ensuring safe travel arrangements for your guest to and from the Piggott School.

The French students will visit England, staying in their exchange partners' homes, from **Wednesday 8th to Wednesday 15th March**. The English students will then go to France and stay with their exchange partners from **Thursday 23rd to Thursday 30th March 2023**.

In previous years the cost of this exchange has been between around £300 to £350 per student, with the last trip we ran being in 2019. With rising costs, we are anticipating that the voluntary contributions required for this trip to go ahead may be significantly more this time, possibly around the £450 mark, depending on the number of students involved. Rest assured that we will always endeavour to keep costs to a minimum and seek the best value we can. The cost of the trip will include all transport (coaches and ferry), excursions, staff costs, fully comprehensive insurance and administration.

Should the numbers participating fall below the required figure then there will either be an increase in the cost or if there is insufficient interest, the trip will not take place. Pupils in receipt of free school meals are eligible for funding on this Exchange Trip if requested. If your son/daughter is in receipt of pupil premium, or if you are suffering financial hardship, the school may be able to support with the funding of the trip depending on your circumstances. Please contact Romany Greatrex (trips@piggottschool.org) with any requests for financial support briefly outlining the reason for the request.

As a host family you will be responsible for offering board and lodging to your son/daughter's French exchange partner when they are in the UK. The exchange student should be treated as a member of the family and as such should not be expected to pay for evening/weekend activities that you may wish to do as a family, such as cinema visits or meals out. Your son/daughter will experience a reciprocated level of hospitality when they visit their



partners in France. Students will however need some pocket money to buy meals on the ferry crossings or souvenirs, etc.

Current legislation means that host families in the UK are required to obtain Enhanced DBS certificates. This applies to **all adults living in the house** (aged 18 and over). We will arrange these checks through the School at no additional cost. Further details will follow once the trip participants are confirmed.

If your child would like to take part, please make the initial deposit payment of £100 and complete the online consent form on forms.gle/EbQovgk1Ptcrtwfe7, by **Monday 3rd October**. If you are unable to pay the full deposit at such short notice and do not qualify for funding, please pay what you can, and let me know by email when you will be able to settle the remaining deposit. Once we have participant numbers and confirmed the total cost, a payment schedule will be put in place for those who wish to spread the cost of balance, but we will need the trip to be paid off in full by early February 2023. Payments should be made via SCOPay, either through the app or by visiting www.scopay.com/piggottschool

Since the pandemic and Brexit there have been changes to international travel rules. Please do read the additional notes at the end of this letter to see how these may affect your child.

We believe that this is a fantastic opportunity for students to improve their language skills and experience French culture first hand.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R Brookfield (Subject Leader: French)

Brookfieldr@piggottschool.org

Additional notes:

Your child's eligibility to travel remains your responsibility. There have been many changes to international travel since both the pandemic and Brexit, and we must therefore bring your attention to some of the relevant issues for your consideration. This means that you must be aware of the following:

- Your child must have a valid passport with sufficient validity remaining on it and you are responsible for checking entry requirements and restrictions, particularly those for non-UK passports. Should a visa/ETIAS be required, you will be responsible for obtaining one. To check travel requirements, please visit: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- If eligible, your child should have a GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). The GHIC arrangements replace the old EHICs. If your child is eligible for a GHIC, but does not hold one, then our insurance will not cover the costs of any medical treatment that would have been provided for free had a card been used. Please note that if your child has a valid EHIC, it can continue to be used until it expires. For further information visit: www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/
- If any testing (such as a PCR) or certification is required at the time of travel, you will be responsible for any additional costs involved and for ensuring your child has the correct

documentation in the format required for travel. This applies even if no such requirements were in place at the time of booking.

- If any country that we are travelling to, or transiting through, requires passengers to be fully vaccinated then our insurance will not cover the cost of cancellation for any unvaccinated passengers if there has been sufficient time to obtain the required vaccinations. Unless your child holds a medical exemption, choosing not to vaccinate would be considered as 'disinclination to travel'.
- If a period of self-isolation or quarantine be required either by the destination country, or the UK upon return, we would not be covered for any associated costs such as quarantine in a government approved facility or loss of earnings.
- We will closely monitor and follow all travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Local rules can sometimes change at very short notice. We are fully insured for cancellation and curtailment arising from changes in travel rules if our trips are booked in accordance with travel rules in place at the time of booking. Parents must be aware that while we will endeavour to give you the most accurate information available to us, any subsequent changes are out of our control and do have the potential to disrupt the trip and affect its cost, therefore your flexibility and understanding of this is appreciated.

Whilst away, all students are expected to behave to a very high standard, as laid out in the School Behaviour contract. If, prior to the trip departing, it becomes apparent that an individual student's behaviour is unacceptable at School, thus causing us concern, you will be contacted. We reserve the right to withdraw a student from the trip if we believe their behaviour would have a detrimental effect on the rest of the party, or that their own safety and welfare may be at risk. We would endeavour to find a replacement student and then all monies may be refunded, subject to an administration charge. If, however, we were unable to find a replacement, the initial payment and any incurred cancellation charges, would not be refunded.

Should your child voluntarily withdraw prior to the trip, or you are unable to continue payments, you would lose the initial payment, and any payments already made would be used to cover cancellation charges, the balance being refunded, unless their place can be filled by another student.