

6th June 2011

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: French Exchange 2011-12

Following the success of this year's visit to France, I am delighted to be able to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to participate in the French Exchange with our partner school, the Collège du Sacré Coeur in Versailles, next academic year.

We are hoping that we can accommodate everyone who wishes to participate but we are dependent on equal numbers of exchange partners being provided by the French school. Unfortunately they will not be in a position to confirm their numbers until the beginning of the new term in September. In the event that the trip is over-subscribed, places will be allocated by lottery. Should it not be possible to arrange for your son/daughter to be hosted in France, we will of course refund your deposit in full immediately.

This trip is a unique and invaluable opportunity for students to experience the French way of life first-hand (family life, school, the customs and practices of the host country). It enables them to immerse themselves in the language and to practise with sympathetic native speakers in a very friendly environment.

The Exchange is ideally suited to students in Year 9, who are prepared to match up with Year 9 French students. An exchange is a reciprocal offer of hospitality. The student stays with a person his/ her age in France and in return he/ she receives that person for a similar period of time as a guest.

Beaumont students will go to France from Thursday 13th October until Wednesday 19th October. The French students will come to England just before the Easter holidays (exact dates to be confirmed).

We will travel to Paris by Eurostar, where we will be met by a coach which will take us on to Versailles. Each week day during our stay in France, the Beaumont group will go on some exciting excursions together. We will explore the historic town of Versailles, home of the 17th and 18th century kings of France. Our partner school is very near the magnificent Château de Versailles built by King Louis XIV, and its vast grounds. We will also spend time in Paris visiting its many beautiful sights including la Tour Eiffel, le Louvre, le Sacré-Cœur and la Place du Tertre, la cathédrale de Notre-Dame, and others chosen by the group. A very popular day is also our visit to Eurodisney! Students will also be able to enjoy spending an afternoon experiencing French school life by eating in their canteen and participating in lessons. Evenings and the weekend will be spent with their French families who will make every effort to organise some interesting activities for them. A similar programme would be arranged for the French when they visit pupils here.

As hosts you undertake certain responsibilities:

- You commit yourself to receiving a French child into your home – this does *not* mean that you have to have a spare bedroom; sharing is possible.
- You accept full responsibility for that child and agree to treat him/her as you would expect your own child to be treated.
- You pay for expenses the guest incurs in connection with your family activities (entrance tickets, fares, restaurant or café bills, etc.).
- You vet all activities proposed by your child or the guest and ensure that the visitor is not involved in events of which his/ her parents might reasonably disapprove.

The total cost of the trip will be between approximately £260 and £275 per student. As the price is dependent on the number of pupils involved, I will only be able to confirm the exact cost after the deadline for replies. The price includes all travel, entrance fees and a visit to a crêperie. Unfortunately, we are unable to meet these costs from our own funds, and the visit will only be able to go ahead if parents are prepared to make a voluntary contribution. It is entirely up to you whether you wish to contribute. However, if all parents are not prepared to make this contribution then the visit may not be able to take place for any of the students.

Cont...

If you would like your child to participate in this enjoyable and educationally valuable trip, please complete the attached reply slip and return it via your son/ daughter to the French Exchange box outside the Finance Office, by the deadline of **Monday 20th June**, along with a non-refundable deposit of £50. Once I am able to confirm the final cost, the balance will be due by Monday 12th September. If you wish to discuss financial assistance or a possible extension on the payment deadline please contact the Finance Office before 20th June.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Edison
French Exchange Organiser

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2011-12

Please return to the 'French Exchange' box outside the Finance Office by Monday 20th June

Pupil's Surname: (**as on passport***).....

Pupil's Forenames: (**as on passport***).....

Form.....

Passport Number:

Issue Date:

Expiry Date:

Country of Issue:

** Please note that names must be stated exactly as they appear on your child's passport. An accurate passenger list must be passed on to Eurostar at the time of booking. Any subsequent name changes may incur an extra charge.*

If necessary, would you be prepared to have a partner of the opposite sex **YES** **NO**

I would like my son/daughter to participate in the French Exchange from 13-19 October 2011

I am/am not* prepared to make the contribution requested of **£50** as an initial deposit towards a total cost of between approximately £260 and £275. I undertake to make final payment by the required deadline.

I agree to his/her taking part in the activities described. I also consent to any emergency medical treatment, including the use of anaesthetics, necessary during the course of the journey. I understand that for the school's insurance policy to cover any pre-existing medical condition, I must provide a letter from my GP stating my son/daughter is fit to travel.

Emergency contact/medical details. Please tick either box A or B.

A I confirm that all details held by the school on the gold form concerning emergency contact telephone numbers and/or medical conditions affecting my son/daughter are correct, or that I have already notified the school of any changes.

B Please note the following change(s) to the above details, which is/are

for this visit only permanent.

Signed.....Father/Mother/Legal Guardian

Date.....