



# Bassingbourn Village College

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Part of the Anglian Learning Trust

Limited by guarantee registered in

England and Wales with registered no : 07564749

Registered address: Lode Road, Cambridge CB25 9DL

**Ms V Poulter**  
**Principal**

9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: French exchange 2019-20**

After two very successful French exchanges, I am delighted to be running the trip again this year. The students who have taken part in the exchange over the last two years felt that they had had a rewarding experience, and some have chosen to return to their exchange partners for a second year. This is a great opportunity for your child to stay with a French family, to experience at first hand French culture, and very importantly to learn a great deal of spoken French in a short time. The teacher organising the French host families is the father of two of our ex-students here at BVC, who is an English teacher in France.

The trip is open to all students from years 7-10, and will be especially beneficial to students considering taking French to GCSE with the new-style speaking exam, in which students are required to speak more spontaneously than previously, about everyday topics. This exchange will therefore help enormously in both confidence and spoken French, as students learn and practise every-day conversational French with their families. In addition, we hope that some partnerships may last beyond this year's exchange and some long lasting friendships can develop. For year 8 students, they should be aware that the usual year 8 week's residential in France will be running in June, and they would not therefore be able to do both.

Here is some basic information. The exchange takes place in two parts:

### **Mon 27<sup>th</sup> - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020: French students in England**

Each student taking part in the exchange will host one French student in their family during this week. One day will be spent in school with their exchange partner, in lessons and taking part in activities organised by us. The other days, the French student will go on trips, organised and paid for by the French school. You will be asked to provide breakfast, packed lunches and an evening meal each day. At the end of the day, they will return to you, usually for dinner and to spend the evening with you. The aim of this part of the exchange is for the French students to speak as much English as possible with you and your family.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020: our students in France**

We will go to by train France together, and your child will stay with the French student who stayed with you, for around 6 days, experiencing the differences of a French school, (many differences according to our students!) and spending a day in the beautiful countryside at the foot of the Alps. Students will then be lucky enough to spend the weekend with their host families, speaking as much French as possible with them. These dates do not clash with any exams.

### **Practicalities:**

- Exchange school: the school is called 'Collège Joseph Bédier' and is situated in a small village called Le Grand Serre, halfway between Lyon and Grenoble, in the south-east of France. It is an incredibly beautiful area, and last year host families took their partners to do a range of wonderful activities at the weekend: climbing, camping, swimming in mountain lakes, horse-riding etc.
- Travel – we will take the train to London, then the Eurostar/SNCF to Grenoble. There will be one change in Lille. We will then take a coach to the village of Le Grand Serre.
- Exchange families – we will try very hard to match students up with like-minded exchange partners, and will ask for information about hobbies, family life in order to make this process successful.

- Cost – As train tickets cannot yet be bought this far in advance, we can only estimate the cost of the tickets. The last three years, the total cost of the trip was £250, but this is dependent on train fares and numbers of students going. Of course, in addition to this, you will be providing your exchange partner with meals while they are here, and the French families will do the same while we are staying with them. Students may wish to take some spending money with them too.
- For various reasons in the French school, all of the French students taking part in the exchange will be in year 9.
- Due to the newly updated version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE Sept 2018), all adults over the age of 16 in the household will need a DBS check. This would be free of charge.

If you would like to take part in this exchange, please complete the attached reply slip by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**, and pay a deposit of £80 on Wisepay. If you have any questions please get back to me at the email address below.

Yours faithfully,



Karenza Nutley  
[knutley@bassingbournvc.org](mailto:knutley@bassingbournvc.org)

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**Please return to Ms Nutley, MFL department by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at the latest**

I would like my child ..... year group

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 to take part in the 2019-20 French exchange programme. I am happy to host a French student from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, as stated in the letter.

I have paid the deposit of £80 on Wisepay.

Signed .....(Parent/Carer) Date .....