

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Sixth Form Work Experience in France

As the parent/guardian of a soon-to-be Year 12 student who is studying French, I would like to offer the opportunity for your son/daughter to stay with a French partner and their family and undertake a short period of practical work experience in Quimper, Brittany.

The work experience is run as an exchange and is longstanding: it has run successfully every year for the last twenty-one years. We send the *Institution Sainte-Thérèse* (our partner school) details of our students and indicate the sort of placement we think would be suitable for them. The school in Quimper then arranges a placement in France and allocates an exchange partner with whom our student will live. In our experience, placements in primary schools prove to be the most productive and, in recent years, most students have chosen that option. However, we endeavour to make the placement relevant to the student and will discuss possibilities with students beforehand.

We are convinced that taking part in this exchange is the most effective way to improve language skills, as well as bolstering confidence in general. Previous students have always said that it gave them confidence in the language and our French Assistant always remarks on the progress they have made when they return. Many students end up building long-term friendships with their partner and visiting them independently. However, I would stress that the purpose of the exchange is a linguistic one and that students are able to profit just as much from a week spent with somebody who has different interests from their own.

In **March 2017** our students will travel to Quimper and spend a week immersed in French life. The French party will then return to England with us and you would, in the normal course of things, host the student whose family have hosted your son/daughter. We also find a placement for them here – usually in your local primary school.

I will travel with the group and stay with my colleague Mme Lucas in Quimper to ensure all students are suitably supported and happy, and the school will arrange for our students to be insured during their stay in France.

We cross the channel on a ferry from **Plymouth to Roscoff** and return from **Roscoff to Plymouth**. The following dates have been agreed with our French partner school:

Friday 17 March

We travel to Quimper on the Armorique ferry.

Ferry departs at **10.00pm** from Plymouth.

Ferry arrives at **8.00am** (local time) in Roscoff on Saturday 18 March.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

Friday 24 March

We travel home with our French partners on the Armorique ferry.

Ferry departs at **3.00pm** (local time) from Roscoff.

Ferry arrives at **8.10pm** in Plymouth.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

Friday 31 March

The French party travels home.

Ferry departs at **10.00pm** from Plymouth.

Coach to depart from Colyton at around **6.00pm**.

I estimate the cost per participant to be **£225** this year, and I am asking for an initial deposit of £50 at this stage (**payments made via your [ParentPay](#) account please by Monday 18 July**). If a substantial sum is left over, you will be reimbursed. I have applied to the Bradbeer Bursary Fund to part-subsidise the trip, and so the estimated cost is based on that bid being successful. The Bradbeer Bursary Fund would provide a subsidy of £41.25 per student for this activity, which would reduce the price from £266.25 to £225. The Bradbeer Bursary Fund is financed by payments received under the Government's 'Feed In Tariff' scheme from the renewable energy installation funded by the generous legacy of Sid Bradbeer, a former member of staff.

This is not a compulsory part of the French Sixth Form course, but I believe it has unrivalled benefits for any student of French and strongly recommend that all our students participate.

In order to discuss the exchange in more detail, you are invited to a meeting at the school at **6.30pm on Thursday 8 December 2016**, in the Coly Building. You will have an opportunity to hear more details and ask questions about the exchange.

Please let me know whether or not you are able to attend this meeting by replying to this email.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Banks
Head of Modern Languages