

## COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Colyford, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6HN



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Dear Parent/Guardian

### Sixth Form Work Experience in France

As the parent/guardian of a 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-two 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.

From **11 March – 17 March 2018** our students will travel to Quimper and spend a week immersed in French life. The French party will then visit us in England from **24 March – 30 March 2018** 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.

Two members of Colyton staff (including at least one of the group's teachers from the MFL department) will travel with the group and stay with our colleague, Mme Lucas, in Quimper, where we will ensure all students are suitably supported and happy. 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.

Please note that the visit to France falls unavoidably in the same week as the domestic work experience week. We know some students will have a strong desire to do both, so there will be a specific week designated in the summer term for participating students to gain valuable domestic work experience and avoid missing out.

### **Friday 9 March**

We travel to Quimper by Brittany Ferries ferry.

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

Ferry arrives at **8.00am** (local time) in Roscoff on **Saturday 10 March**.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

### **Saturday 17 March**

We travel home by Brittany Ferries ferry.

Ferry departs at **10.00pm** (local time) from Roscoff.

Ferry arrives at **8.00am** in Plymouth on **Sunday 18 March**.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

### **Friday 23 March**

The French party travels here by Brittany Ferries ferry.

Ferry departs at **3.00pm** from Roscoff.

Ferry arrives at **8.10pm** (local time) in Plymouth.

Collect partners from Colyton at about **10.00pm**.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

### **Saturday 31 March**

The French party travels home by Brittany Ferries ferry.

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

Ferry arrives at **10.00am** (local time) in Roscoff on **Sunday 1 April**.

Travel to and from ferry ports by coach.

I estimate the cost per participant to be **£251.75** this year, and I am asking for an initial deposit of £50 at this stage (**payments made via your [ParentPay](#) account please by Friday 6 October**). 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 £13.25 per student for this activity, which would reduce the price from £265 to £251.75. 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 16 November 2017** in the Walker Building. You will have an opportunity to hear more details and ask questions about the exchange.

Please make the deposit payment of £50 by ParentPay and give your consent at the same time if you would like your son or daughter to take part.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Banks  
Head of Modern Languages