

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Colyford, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6HN



Tel: 01297 552327 Email: admin@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk Fax: 01297 553853

November 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Colyton Grammar School's French Exchange April/May 2017

We are very pleased to offer Colyton GCSE French students in Y9 and Y10 the opportunity to travel to Villefranche-sur-Saône, in the Beaujolais region of France. This Exchange has been running for ten years now with Mongré School and each trip has been very much enjoyed by all participants. This is an opportunity to meet people of the same age in France, stay with a French family and enjoy daily life at home and at school.

Dates planned:

- French party travels to Britain: **29 April 2017**
- French party returns to France: **6 May 2017**

- Colyton party travels to France: **17 May 2017**
- Colyton party returns from France: **24 May 2017**

More precise information will be available in due course and the dates may be subject to some small variation depending on flights available.

N.B.

Unfortunately, places are limited to 36 and we anticipate that the exchange will be oversubscribed. In that event, we will prioritise students who have not been on this exchange in the past. We will then conduct a random ballot.

Accompanying the trip

The trip will be planned and accompanied by members of the MFL department. We have considerable experience of taking exchanges and trips abroad and we always go to great lengths to ensure students' safety and morale. The teachers from the English Department at our French Partner School have much experience of exchanges too and have been working with us for the past 10 years. Safety will be uppermost in all our minds when planning the Exchange.

What is "laid on"

When in France, our hosts aim to provide a range of trips and activities. Some days will be spent in school, taking part in the school curriculum as far as possible. There is a very friendly atmosphere in the French school and our students are always well received. However, the main focus of an exchange is the family life into which students are integrated. Frequently on exchanges families go to great lengths to show their guest the region, and both the Colyton and Mongré teachers are keen that visiting students derive the maximum benefit socially, culturally and linguistically from their visit.

Pairing

We aim to find the most appropriate partners possible for pairing. We will take into account all relevant factors such as character, age, interests, health matters and other practical issues. However, it is important for students to be flexible and open to new experiences. We suggest that you do not look for differences in your partner, but points in common and areas to explore.

Getting to know each other

We aim to encourage a significant amount of two-way correspondence by e-mail, Skype or post between partners before going on the exchange. Sending photographs of your family, home, friends, pets etc. and postcards or leaflets about your local area, swapping examples of school work and brief accounts of personal life all help to make the partner more familiar. This is definitely an area where the more effort is put in, the greater the benefit derived!

Money

We estimate the cost to be approximately **£340.00**, but this will depend on travel arrangements and it may well be more or less expensive than that. We have applied to the Bradbeer Bursary Fund and requested a subsidy of £40.00 per student for this activity, which would reduce the estimated price if successful from £400.00 to £340.00. 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.

We will set up arrangements for paying by instalments. However, the first instalment will need to be a substantial one to cover the cost of reserving our flights. Once the French party arrives here, we pay for trips and other costs. Likewise, once we have arrived in France, they fund our expenses. If any substantial balance remains at the end of the exchange, it will be returned to you.

Meetings

We will invite parents to a meeting at school to outline the plans for our visit to France later in the Spring Term 2017. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, if you are interested in your son/daughter taking part in the exchange, I should be grateful if you would complete and return the attached form to the Admin Centre by **Friday 11 November**.

Subsequently, if successful in any ballot, we will ask you to complete some forms and make a non-refundable deposit payment of **£150** via your [ParentPay](#) account by **Tuesday 29 November**.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Banks / Mrs M-R Hughes
Head of / Second in MFL

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PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH EXCHANGE 2017
To be returned to Admin Centre by Friday 11 November 2016

Colyton Grammar's French Exchange 2017

I wish my son/daughter to participate in the French Exchange 2017. If my child is successful in securing a place on the exchange, I/we will make an initial deposit payment of £150 via ParentPay by Tuesday 29 November 2016.

Son's/Daughter's name _____

Tutor Group: _____

Parent's/Guardian's signature: _____

Date: _____