

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **FRENCH EXCHANGE 2015-16**

Dear parents and pupils

Once again next year we are planning a French Exchange with our partner school, the **Institution Saint Louis** in Pont l'Abbé d'Arnoult, near Saintes in the Charente Maritime *département*. This is a well-established exchange from which hundreds of Ripon Grammar pupils have benefited over a period of 26 years. The exchange is open to pupils studying French in the Fourth Year and Sixth Form (current 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years).

The exchange works as follows: RGS pupils will travel to France from **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October until Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015** (half term and two days of school). The French group will travel here from **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016** (the last couple of days of the Easter term, plus the beginning of the Easter holiday). These dates are an approximate guide: there may be slight variations, depending on travel arrangements. Travel will be by coach or by air, depending on availability. The cost will be no more than **£270**. We would not wish cost to stop any pupils taking part, so if this is an issue please contact the headmaster in confidence.

During the exchange, pupils will stay with host families. We shall match pupils up by age, interests and family background, after asking participants to fill in detailed questionnaires. Pupils will attend some lessons in the French school, take part in organised outings but spend the bulk of the time with the host family. Previous group visits have included Futuroscope theme park, Cognac, Saintes, the Ile d'Aix and Rochefort. The main aim is to give pupils the opportunity to improve their listening and speaking skills, but clearly there are lots of other personal benefits involved. Pupils who do the exchange nearly always see their motivation and their marks raised! Above all, a large number of those involved find that they make a new friend – often for life. **We recommend the exchange strongly to you as an educational experience.**

It is important to note, however, that the exchange may not suit every individual and every family. There are challenges involved in being away from home and the exchange is certainly a significant whole family commitment.

Families will need to organise activities and outings for their guest and be prepared to help them a good deal with their English. However, a separate room for your guest is not a prerequisite.

Please note also that we cannot accommodate French students in the boarding houses as the exchange is designed to be a family-based experience, so boarders would have to make alternative arrangements for the couple of days in March – this is not an insurmountable problem. In addition, I cannot guarantee a place for every applicant since I cannot know in advance how many French students will apply. However, we have almost never had to turn anyone down.

If you would like to take part please complete the attached slip, plus a deposit of £100, by bringing a cheque, payable to 'Ripon Grammar School', to Mrs Grime in Room 16 at break **(only returnable if a partner cannot be found)**. **The deadline is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. I will be booking our travel soon after this date.**

Please contact me at school if you have any questions ([chamberlaint@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:chamberlaint@ripongrammar.co.uk))

Yours sincerely

Mr I.T. Chamberlain  
Head of Modern Languages

<http://www.saintlouis-pontlabbe.com/>



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I give permission for my son/daughter ..... in form ..... to take part in next year's French Exchange. I have forwarded a deposit of £100 to the school.

Signed ..... (Parent/Guardian)

## **FRENCH EXCHANGE 2015-16**

### **RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL / INSTITUTION SAINT LOUIS**

Parents: please complete this form with your child neatly and clearly in black ink (to facilitate photocopying). It will be read by your French partner and family. Give as much detail as possible, in order to help us match you with the right person. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE on 01.09.15 \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months DATE OF BIRTH

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Pupil's personal email/ mobile number

\_\_\_\_\_

Email of parents

\_\_\_\_\_

Parental mobile phone

number \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' OCCUPATIONS (parents – emplois)

\_\_\_\_\_

NAMES AND AGES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS (Frères et soeurs)

\_\_\_\_\_

ANY ILLNESS, ALLERGY OR DIETARY NEEDS (Allergies, maladies, régime)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU ACCEPT A PARTNER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX?

\_\_\_\_\_

(Accepteriez-vous un correspondant du sexe opposé ?)

WOULD THE PARTNER HAVE A SEPARATE ROOM? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Votre correspondant aurait-il une chambre individuelle?)

HAVE YOU DONE AN EXCHANGE BEFORE? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Avez-vous déjà participé à un échange?)

HAVE YOU BEEN ABROAD BEFORE? GIVE DETAILS. (Voyages à l'étranger)

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WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU AND YOUR FAMILY OFFER YOUR FRENCH PARTNER? (Quelle sorte d'activités proposeriez-vous à votre correspondant?)

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WOULD YOUR PARENTS BE AT HOME DURING THE HOLIDAY?  
(Vos parents seraient-ils à la maison pendant les vacances scolaires?)

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DETAILS OF ANY PETS (animaux de compagnie)

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HOBBIES, SPORTS, INTERESTS (Intérêts, loisirs)

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FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECTS (OR 'AS' LEVELS) (Matières préférées)

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PERSONALITY

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TYPE OF PARTNER PREFERRED (Type de correspondant recherché)

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WHAT TYPE OF HOUSE DO YOU LIVE IN? (Description de la maison)

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PARENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Mr I. T. Chamberlain by the end of the summer term.

If you email me on [chamberlaint@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:chamberlaint@ripongrammar.co.uk), I can send you an electronic copy of this form and you can email it back.