

20<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to take part in the school's French Exchange.

I am sure you will agree that an exchange provides a valuable cultural experience, offering an insight into the way of life in another country. Past experience shows that an exchange can also raise performance at GCSE level, as it improves pupils' confidence and fluency in the language of study. Pupils who have previously participated in this exchange have reported very favourably on the experience, particularly when an enduring friendship has developed as a result.

The following dates are proposed for the exchange:

**English pupils to France: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October (2014)**  
**French pupils to England: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February (2015)**

Our partner school, St Marthe St Front Secondary and High school, is a mixed private school situated in Bergerac, a commune of the Dordogne department in south-western France.

The cost of the trip will be approximately £270. This includes:

- Return flights to Bergerac
- 15kg luggage allowance
- Coach transfers to and from the airports
- All day visits in France
- Liverpool visit (during the English leg of the exchange) : coach, Beatles Story and Liverpool Eye)
- Chester Zoo visit: coach and entrance
- Manchester visit: coach, MOSI entrance and Old Trafford Stadium guided tour.

The exact price will depend on the number of participants and the price of the flights. We travel with a budget airline to keep the cost as low as possible, but consequently, the ticket prices can fluctuate up until the day that we have all the deposits in and are in a position to make the booking.

Likewise, the flights released by the travel centre for the French pupils to return to England in February are provisional, and the date could vary by a day or two.

All pupils taking part in the exchange will need their own passport and their own European Health Insurance Card.

Should you wish your child to participate in the exchange, I will require a non-refundable deposit of **£120 by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**, as well as the completed application and matching forms. (You can make a cheque payable to Helsby High School.) Cheques and/or forms should be given to **Mrs Eglin**, in the **school finance office**. I appreciate that this is a large deposit, but this is to secure the flights as soon as all deposits have been collected.

If the cost of the exchange would place an unreasonable financial burden on your family, please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible and I will be able to give you details of the financial help that may be made available.

Should we be over-subscribed, pupils' names would have to be drawn out of a hat. Also, as with any school visit, a pupil's participation does depend on good behaviour in school; I am sure you understand the reasons for this.

Once applications have been submitted and places allocated, the pupils will be matched and can begin to exchange letters or e-mails.

I will hold a parents' information meeting before each stage of the exchange, but do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime should you have further queries. My email address is [etobin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:etobin@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Tobin  
Modern Foreign Languages Department