



13 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Year 9 and Year 10 French Students - French Exchange 2024**

You may already know that the Modern Languages Department has a school link with the Collège Broussais in Dinan, Brittany, with whom we have successfully run an exchange for a number of years. The exchange provides an excellent opportunity for your child to develop their language skills in a real life context and to experience staying with a French family.

A full programme of excursions and school-based activities will be planned which we hope will enhance students' vocabulary and language skills as well as being engaging and enjoyable. These activities also link in directly with areas covered in the GCSE syllabus for French. Apart from the curricular benefit, the exchange can have a wider influence in helping to develop a deeper understanding of similarities and differences, as well as shaping more positive, open and tolerant attitudes. In the past students have also benefitted from increased self-confidence.

The anticipated cost of the exchange will be **approximately £320** (based on last year's costings), dependent on final student numbers. This price includes all transport, including the overnight ferry journey and all of the excursions and activities throughout the week.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and/or is Pupil Premium, financial assistance is available, please contact the Finance Team at [finance@backwellschool.net](mailto:finance@backwellschool.net) or via their direct line 01275 465941, to discuss further.

Our provisional dates for 2024 (subject to change) are:

- Dinan party in Backwell: Monday 18 March 2024 to Monday 25 March 2024
- Backwell party in Dinan: Wednesday 5 June 2024 to Thursday 13 June 2024

If you wish for your child to take part, please fill in the following brief MS Form link by **Friday 22 September 2023** : <https://forms.office.com/e/HA1zE0B4rM>. Please note that by giving your consent, you are making a firm commitment to both hosting a French student and your child participating in the trip to Dinan.

Once responses have been collated, we will start to allocate places. Please note that whilst the French Exchange is open to all Year 9 and Year 10 students of French, priority will be given to Year 10 students but will otherwise be on a first come, first served basis. When places have been confirmed, we will be in contact regarding paying a deposit on ParentPay and a subsequent payment schedule and will provide you with an application form. The latter will enable us to match Backwell students with Broussais students.

It would be helpful to know at this stage whether you would be prepared to host another French student in addition to your child's exchange partner and whether you would be prepared to host a boy or a girl. A meeting will be held for both parents and students before each leg of the exchange, but if you do require any further information at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact Student Services at school.

Yours sincerely

H Young  
Curriculum Leader for Modern Foreign Languages