Backwell School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 and Year 10 French Students - French Exchange 2027

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.

To give you an idea of costings, last year's trip was £425. This year's cost is dependent on final student numbers and increases in travel costs etc. This price will include all transport, including the overnight ferry journey and all of the excursions and activities throughout the week.

If your child is in receipt of Targeted Free School meals and/or is Pupil Premium, financial assistance is available, please contact the Finance Team at finance@backwellschool.net to discuss further.

Our provisional dates for 2027 (subject to change) are:

- **Dinan party in Backwell: Monday 15 March to Monday 22 March 2027**
- **Backwell party in Dinan: Thursday 10 June to Thursday 17 June 2027**

(Please be aware that there is a Silver Duke of Edinburgh trip taking place in June that unavoidably overlaps with the outgoing French Exchange trip so please factor this into your decision-making if relevant to your child).

If you wish for your child to take part, please fill in the following brief MS Form link by **10am on Monday 12 October**: French Exchange 2027 - Register of Interest – Fill in form

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. Please consider for the visit to France, that in addition to the activities organised within the school day with other Backwell students, students should be prepared to spend time independently with host families in the evening and at the weekend and be open to trying new food/experiences, thus making the most of the authentic and

immersive experience. Please consider both aspects of hosting a student, and the outbound visit, with your child before applying.

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 studentservices@backwellschool.net

Yours sincerely

H. Young
Curriculum Leader for Modern Foreign Languages