



# Backwell School

A National Teaching School

Station Road, Backwell,  
Bristol BS48 3BX  
Tel: 01275 463371  
mailbox@backwellschool.net  
www.backwellschool.net

Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 9 - German Pen Pal Project

You may already know that the Modern Languages Department at Backwell maintains a number of longstanding and successful partnerships with schools and institutions abroad. We believe that language learning should be memorable and meaningful so we aim, wherever possible, to provide students with direct access to the countries and cultures they study. I am, therefore, delighted to inform you of a new and exciting opportunity for all Year 9 Germanists.

Recently, we have established a new link with the Augustinius-Gymnasium, a school in Weiden, Bavaria. In the coming weeks, Backwell students will be invited to exchange letters with their counterparts in Germany. This project offers an authentic context for revisiting the learning we have done over the last year, not least hobbies, aspects of the local area, and school. Given recent global events, we also anticipate that the experience will be all the more valuable in enabling students to compare their own experiences with an opposite number elsewhere in the world

Please be aware of the following details:

- The letters will be drafted and written in lesson time.
- The school will act as an intermediary, sending the letters to Germany on students' behalf. Replies will be received and distributed in the same manner. There will not be any direct or unsupervised contact.
- Students will receive guidance on appropriate content. It goes without saying that much of the project's value rests on students being able to talk about themselves. However, it is equally important that they feel comfortable doing so.

In order for your child to exchange letters with a pen pal in Germany, we ask that you please complete and return the attached permission slip by **Friday 6 November**. Should you not wish for your child to participate in the project, the expectation remains that they write a letter in lessons, however, whatever they produce will be considered classwork only and it will not be sent to Germany. Should you wish to hear more, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Mr J Furnival  
Teacher of German

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**Year 9 German Pen Pal Project - please return this slip to Mr Furnival by Friday 6 November**

I understand the above details and I GIVE PERMISSION / DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION for my child, to participate in the Year 9 German Pen Pal project.

NAME OF STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ TUTOR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer