



October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2023

We have run exchange programmes with our partner schools for many years. Your child has the opportunity to take part in the 2023 French Exchange visit. This will be our ninth French exchange with the same school.

We go to Chaumont, a small town of about 25,000 inhabitants, set in the Haute-Marne *département* in the Champagne-Ardenne region. Our partner school, Collège Camille Saint-Saens is about the same size as The Chantry and lies in the heart of the town.

The exchange is open to all pupils who study French in years 8, 9 and 10. The Chantry pupils will be paired with a French pupil of a similar age. When we visit France in March, they will stay at the home of the pupil with their family. Your child's French exchange partner will visit England and will stay with you and your child at your home in May.

A range of activities in France is organised. Examples of what we have previously done are below:

- Spend the day at school with your French Exchange partner in their normal lessons
- Friendship event with food and drinks with French and English pupils and the French families
- Day visit to the beautiful cities of Dijon or Troyes or the town of Beaune
- Group treasure hunt around Chaumont

When the French pupils visit us, a similar itinerary is planned.

The linguistic benefits of such an exchange visit are huge! Not only will pupils get the chance to try out some of their French, but they will also make enormous progress as they will be seeing and hearing the language all of the time.

We will travel by coach and the Channel Tunnel's *Le Shuttle* on Monday 20th and return on Friday 24th March 2023. The pupils will be accommodated with their exchange partner and their family for the four nights of the exchange but will spend much of their time with their English friends on excursions and activities in the area during the day. They will see The Chantry teachers every day and have access to 24-hour mobile phone contact with us.

The French pupils will come to Martley on Monday 22nd and depart on Friday 26 May. Both of these weeks are normal school weeks to allow for both sets of pupils to experience life in their partners' schools.

The cost of taking part, based on **27** participants, is approximately **£410**. This is dependent on actual numbers who sign up and on the provisional costs of the coach and *Le Shuttle*. The price includes all travel costs, excursion costs and insurance. Obviously in order to participate in the visit to France, your son/daughter you must be willing to host a partner when the exchange pupils come here.

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Each pupil must be in possession of:

- a valid passport;
- a EHIC card which does not expire before the trip ends. Alternatively, please apply for a UK GHIC (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>).

Your child's passport must meet 2 requirements, it must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

Please check both the issue date and the expiry date in your passport. If you renewed your passport early, extra months may have been added to its expiry date. This could affect the requirement for your passport to be less than 10 years old.

COVID regulations: please be aware that these might change, but as things stand at the moment travellers aged 12 or over entering France from abroad must possess either proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival and present this proof on request to carriers or authorities. France will accept the UK's proof of COVID-19 recovery and vaccination record.

There will be a parents' information evening in February.

In line with the new General Data Protection Regulations, we need explicit consent to share personal data. If your child is 13 or above, they are deemed capable of giving this consent. For the purposes of this trip, we need consent to share passport details and dates of birth with the travel companies.

In order to take part in the exchange, and comply with UK regulations, all adults in the homes where guest pupils will stay must now undertake a DBS check. DBS checks for volunteers are free of charge. This supports our long-established processes of working with our partner schools to match families and pupils to ensure successful placements.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in this exciting trip, please would you complete this [online form](#) (or scan the QR code below) and make a deposit payment of £100 via the school gateway by Friday 11th November. There will also be a payment schedule for further instalments. The final balance will be due on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

For more information, please email us:

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Yours sincerely



Rachel Davies & Sean McCauley
French Exchange Organisers