

September 2011

Dear Parent

### **Year 10 French Exchange 2011-2012**

I am writing to give you details of a new French exchange for Year 10 pupils that the French Department will be running in 2011-2012. We have established links with a French partner school, the Institution Sainte-Marie, a large, prestigious, private school in Antony, a small town in the southern suburbs of Paris. I visited the French school in May of last year and we have agreed to run a first exchange for 15-25 pupils. The exchange will provide a valuable opportunity for pupils to gain confidence in speaking and understanding French at a relatively early stage in the GCSE course and we would expect participation in the exchange to have a very positive effect upon pupils' performance in speaking and listening assessments at GCSE.

We will travel to France on Saturday 31 March spending a week in France and therefore returning on Saturday 7 April. The French group will come to England during the summer term, from Friday 15 June to Friday 22 June. Whilst in France, PGS pupils will be with their French partners and host families in the evenings and at the weekend, but will follow a programme of group activities during the day. This will include visits to the Palace of Versailles, the Louvre and the Cité des Sciences. We believe that this arrangement combines the linguistic and social benefits of a family exchange with the security and friendly atmosphere of a group visit. Depending on numbers, two or three members of staff from PGS will accompany all visits and be available in the evenings and at weekends should contact need to be made.

We believe strongly in the social and linguistic benefits of exchanges. They can be great fun, but also rewarding hard work, and **before you apply for a place you should be sure that your son or daughter regards this as an opportunity to learn French and get to know a host family, not just as a holiday with school friends. We would also stress that participation in an exchange is, of course, a two-way commitment and those pupils who travel to France for the outward leg will be expected to host their French partner for the return visit**

You will be wondering about the cost of the exchange. The price will be £250-£300, depending on transport costs. This figure includes travel, insurance and a contribution to the programme that we will be running for the French group here in England, which will be reciprocated during our time in France. Please bear in mind that, in England, you will also need to have a small budget for hosting and entertaining your guest for the time that they are with you – again, this will be reciprocated in France.

If you would like your son or daughter to participate in the French exchange please return the attached form as soon as possible and certainly by **Friday 16 September**. Please do not return the form without informing your son or daughter! I would also ask you to send a cheque for £50 made payable to 'Portsmouth Grammar School', as a non-refundable deposit.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Gamble**

Head of French ([p.gamble@pgs.org.uk](mailto:p.gamble@pgs.org.uk))



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**Year 10 French Exchange 2011-2012**

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the 2011-2012 French exchange. I am able to offer hospitality to a French child from Friday June 15 to Friday 22 June 2012

Name and address of Pupil:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

We expect that most families would prefer their son or daughter to be paired with a French partner of the same sex. You will understand however that it is not possible to guarantee that the composition of the two groups be identical in gender terms. To this end, it would help our planning if you could circle one of the options below:

- We want our child to be paired with a girl / We want our child to be paired with a boy
- We would prefer our child to be paired with a girl, but would be happy for him/her to be paired with a boy
- We would prefer our child to be paired with a boy, but would be happy for him/her to be paired with a girl
- We would be happy for our child to be paired with either a boy or a girl

Signed:.....

Block Capitals: .....Date:.....

Please return this form via your son or daughter, or by post, to:

**Mr P Gamble, Head of French, Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth PO1 2LN**