



## THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headmaster: James Priory MA

September 2011

Dear Parent

### **Year 7 French Mini-Exchange 2012**

I am writing to give you details of a new French 'mini-exchange' for Year 7 pupils that the French Department will be running in 2012. We have established links with a French partner school, the Collège Thérèse d'Avila, a large, prestigious, private school in Lille. As you may be aware Lille, the fourth-largest city in France, is situated in the north of the country and is only 90 minutes from London by Eurostar. I have previously run Year 9 exchanges with the Collège Thérèse d'Avila and have always been highly impressed by the welcome provided by its' teachers, pupils and parents. My longstanding French colleague and I are now pleased to offer a new 'mini-exchange' to pupils in Year 7.

We believe strongly in the social and linguistic benefits of exchanges and are pleased to be offering a new week-long exchange with a school in Paris to pupils in Year 10. However, we recognise that pupils in Year 7 might find the prospect of a seven day exchange rather daunting and, as such, are offering them the possibility of a 'taster' exchange, lasting two days and one night. This will provide them with the opportunity to use their French, spend an evening in a French family and experience life in a French school, all within a shorter, focused timeframe.

We will travel to France on the morning of Thursday 9 February, taking the train to London and then the Eurostar to Lille, arriving around lunchtime. We will be hosted by the French school and partners in the afternoon and PGS pupils will then spend the evening and night experiencing life in a French family. On Friday 10 February we will again follow a programme of activities put on by the French school, before returning to Portsmouth in the early evening of that day. 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 the trip and be available in the evening should contact need to be made. 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. This will follow the same programme as our trip to France, with the French pupils arriving on Thursday 21 June and leaving the following day, with a programme of events organised by PGS during the school day and French pupils with host families in the evening and overnight.

High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN Telephone 023 9236 0036 Fax 023 9236 4256  
Email [info@pgs.org.uk](mailto:info@pgs.org.uk) Website [www.pgs.org.uk](http://www.pgs.org.uk)

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You will be wondering about the cost of the exchange. The price will be £100 and this figure includes travel, food, 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.

We are very pleased to be offering this new trip, which will provide pupils with an authentic experience of French life early in their PGS career. If you would like your son or daughter to participate in this 'mini-exchange' please return the attached form as soon as possible and certainly by **Friday 23 September**. Please do not return the form without informing your son or daughter! I would also ask you to send a cheque for £25 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 7 French Taster Exchange 2012**

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the 2012 Year 7 French mini-exchange. I am able to offer hospitality to a French child on the evening of Thursday 21 – Friday 22 June

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**

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