

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

East Road Lancaster LA1 3EF

Tel: 01524 580600 Ext: 341

Email: ahall@lrgs.org.uk



Mr A M Hall, Head of French
September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2019-2020 TO AMBERIEU-EN-BUGEY nr. LYON

LRGS pupils go to France Saturday 25th January 2020 - 1st February 2020

French pupils come here Saturday 14th March 2020 – Saturday 21st March 2020

LRGS is planning once again to run a French exchange, and as usual it will be organised jointly with LGGs. We will be exchanging 24 pupils with the Lycée de la Plaine de l'Ain, in Ambérieu-en-Bugey, near Lyon, and LGGs will also exchange 24 of their pupils. We have worked closely with this lycée for a number of years. If your son or daughter may be interested in participating, we can assure you that their knowledge and enjoyment of French would be greatly enriched through this opportunity.

Purpose of the Exchange: The primary purpose is to improve language skills. Secondly, we hope pupils on both sides will find the exchange an opportunity to further develop their social skills, both as hosts and guests, and to have a greater understanding of and empathy with France's culture and people. Every effort is made to match pupils with a compatible partner, and to make the experience as enjoyable as possible. Please be aware that boys could be partnered with girls and vice-versa, so please make it known if this could cause any issues with hosting arrangements.

Programme: The French exchange visit to Lyon will take place on 25th January to 1st February 2020. Pupils who participate in the French exchange will also be expected to host a French student on their visit to Lancaster, which will be 14th – 21st March 2020, and must be fully committed to giving the level of hospitality which your son or daughter would hope to receive when we make the trip to France. Boarders who would like to participate will need to make arrangements for their exchange partner to be hosted.

Furthermore, please note that **whilst you may have acted as a host family in the past, in order to ensure that all school visits comply with the government's new Safeguarding Regulations, UK host families will need to undergo a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check prior to the return visit of a student coming to stay in the family home.** This is required even if the parent/guardian already has a DBS clearance as this involves an overnight stay. The clearance is only valid for the period of the visit and, in addition to the DBS check on the lead member, also includes a police record check on the home address. We will need the full names and email addresses of anyone in the household over the age of 18, please fill these in on the attached DBS data form. You will then be registered online by Kate Roberts please contact her for further information (kroberts@lrgs.org.uk).

Travel: Pupils will require their own valid passport and a valid European Health Insurance Card (providing they are still valid at the time of travel). Any pupil travelling under a passport which is not European should alert myself to this fact as early as possible – they might not

require a visa, but we will need sufficient time to check and arrange a visa waiver if required. We will be leaving very early on Saturday morning (25th January), travelling by coach from Lancaster to Manchester airport and then flying on an early morning flight with Easyjet, FlyBe or Jet2 direct to Lyon where a coach will be waiting to take us all to the school in Ambérieu.

We will be returning on the following Saturday, 1st February, flying from Lyon into Manchester. We will be travelling by coach from Manchester to Lancaster, arriving back in the early afternoon.

Cost: We are expecting the trip to cost in the region of **£360** to cover travel, insurance, all excursions and a hoodie, but this cost is approximate until actual costs can be worked out more accurately. In the past it has been the practice to return some money afterwards once all costs have been covered. Any parent of a boy who would like to take part but is experiencing financial difficulties can check information about bursaries on the school's website, or pick up printed information from the sixth form centre.

Excursions in France: We plan to spend two days visiting Lyon, as there is so much to see and do there. We will be visiting a number of museums and historical sites in the city as well as exploring "les traboules", a network of secret passageways intrinsic to the history of the city, in Old Lyon, and climbing to the top of the basilica of "Fourvière" for a grand panoramic view of Lyon and the surrounding area. In the past few years it has also been possible to study topics relating to the GCSE and A level curricula in context. The rest of our stay will either be spent with the family or at school attending lessons and workshops.

If, after discussing the exchange with your son, you feel you would like him to participate, please fill in and return the slip as soon as possible. Priority places will be given to the Lower Sixth. We hope to have enough spaces to accommodate all pupils wanting to take part in the exchange but should we have more applicants than places, we will draw names from a hat.

We would ask you to enclose a deposit of £100 via the school's Wisepay system. You might like to note that once flights have been booked, deposits will be non-refundable. In the event of your son not being awarded a place on the trip, your deposit will be refunded via Wisepay. You will receive a letter confirming your son's place on the trip shortly after the closing date. All paperwork for the trip should go to Mrs Pearson in Lee House.

If your son is interested in participating in the exchange please return the following to Mrs Pearson in Lee House by Friday 11th October:

- £100 deposit – via Wisepay
- Medical information form
- DBS data form
- A copy of a valid passport and EHIC (if either is out of date or needing to be updated, please advise and your son will still be considered)

Yours faithfully,

Mr A M Hall
Head of French Department