

September 2018

European Work Experience Exchange

RGS Students to France (16 – 24 March 2019)

French Students to UK (2 – 10 February 2019)

Dear Students and Parents

An exciting opportunity exists for *any* student in Year 12 to take part in this exchange trip to France, which has been running for the last 18 years. The trip includes transport to Heathrow Airport, return flights between London and Toulouse, a work experience placement (organised by the French family) and full insurance. Students will be in France for eight days. They will do work experience during the week and spend the weekends exploring the area with their exchange partners from the Lycée Victor Hugo, Colomiers, our exchange school. The cost of the exchange will be £580.

Many work placements have been in schools. However, previous placements have also been in pharmacies, veterinaries, laboratories, Airbus, golf clubs, sports venues, libraries, town halls, music studios, shops, etc. If you have a particular interest/request, this can often be accommodated (although not guaranteed).

Weekends and evenings are spent with the families. Many of the social events are student gatherings to places such as the city of Toulouse, Stade Toulousain (rugby stadium), bowling, etc. With the mountains only an hour's drive away, many students are taken there by the family.

Last year's students benefited enormously in their language skills and knowledge of French business culture by participating in this trip. It is a tremendous international opportunity which will help students gain in confidence and give them something 'special' to add to their CV and university application. The Lycée is just west of Toulouse near the airport and has a small catchment area so students will be relatively close to each other. At least two members of staff from the RGS will be in France with the students throughout their stay.

The French students will start the exchange by coming to the UK 2 - 10 February 2019. They will also do work experience organised for us by the Bucks Education Partnership, at such places that are usually accessible by public transport or by foot from your home. Parents will not normally have to transport French students to and from work, although this could be necessary on the odd occasion.

If you wish your son to take part in this trip, please log onto Parent Pay, look up "Toulouse 2019" and pay the deposit of £200 by Friday 21 September. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method. **The final balance of £380 will be due by Friday 2 November.** We would not like anyone to be prevented from going on this trip for purely financial reasons. If you are in this situation, please contact me in confidence.

Please also complete the Exchange Application Form which you will find on the VLE in a course called "French - Toulouse Exchange Application", in your "My Courses" list, also by Friday 7 September.

There are only 28 places available. If the trip is oversubscribed, applications will be considered in order of receipt.

Following changes to the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education Act' 2018, we are now required to carry out a police check (DBS) on one adult in a UK household into which we are placing a young person. This is a simple online process, followed by the checking of three specific identity documents.

France does not require this when placing young people in French families on an exchange visit, however we are in regular contact with your sons and will visit them all on placement.

In addition to the DBS check, and in order to comply with the updated government National Guidance, please complete the section on the Toulouse form relating to the host family.

If you require further information, please contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Chick.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Munday (Assistant Head)