



# Saint Olave's Grammar School

## London 1571

Headmaster: Andrew Rees, B.Sc.

SM/JBW/11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### YEAR 9 FRENCH EXCHANGE 2018-2019

**French students in England:** Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**English students in France:** Fri 17<sup>th</sup> (after school) – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (during Activities Week 1)

It is with great pleasure that I invite your son to take part in our **French exchange** with the *Institution de la Croix Blanche* ([www.lacroixblanche.org](http://www.lacroixblanche.org)), a mixed private school in Bondues, near Lille, France. This exchange is a fantastic opportunity for our boys embarking on their GCSE course in September to improve their linguistic skills and to gain confidence interacting with French native speakers. The approximate cost of the trip will be **£350**.

The French students will visit us first, from **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**. They will attend lessons at St Olave's, visit London with their teachers. The weekend and evenings are spent in families.

Your son will travel to France by Eurostar in a party escorted by myself and another member of staff, from **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**, to stay with the family of his exchange partner, and we will remain on hand for the duration of the trip. Olavians will gain first-hand experience of the French education system attending school with their partners, visit *Le Vieux Lille*, eat in a *crêperie* and have a waffle-making demonstration in the *Petit Musée de la Gaufre*. We will also enjoy a day in Brussels, the capital of Belgium, where students have a chance to glimpse the culture of another French speaking country, visit the European parliament and the historic city centre. Evenings and the weekend are spent in families. Pupils are encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to practise their French with their host families and at school.

To make the trip viable, we aim at a minimum of 15 participants. If your son would like to participate, please pay a **non-refundable deposit of £100 by 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. **All completed reply slips and photocopies should be handed in to Mrs Wells in Room 12**. Please write your son's name and form on the back of the photocopies, as well as 'Year 9 French Exchange'.

Should you find yourself in financial difficulties, please apply to the Headmaster in writing and your application for support will be considered, in the strictest confidence. Payment should be made via our on-line system (sQuid). Should you experience any problems in connection with sQuid, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Department by email [financeoffice@saintolaves.net](mailto:financeoffice@saintolaves.net) and they will assist with your query. Students will need valid passports and EHIC. Anyone with a non-EU



passport must inform Miss Mahadevan, so that arrangements can be made with the British Council for a visa waiver form to be completed and forwarded to school in time for the trip.

Exchange rules are clear-cut: We speak French whilst in France and English whilst in England, in order to immerse ourselves as much as possible with the target language and culture. Please be assured that while you will need to host your son's French exchange partner, which involves providing accommodation and meals or allowance for meals for the duration of their stay in England, you do not need to have a spare bedroom for the exchange partner. It is perfectly acceptable for the partner to share a bedroom with your son. We place great care matching partners according to interests in order to ensure a smooth exchange, and you and your son will get to know the partner personally before our visit in France. Many life-long friendships have come out of such trips – current Year 9s are still in contact with their partners and some are planning to visit each other again. The progress in terms of language and cultural awareness, as well as improvement in self-confidence, is phenomenal.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, preferably via e-mail.

Yours faithfully

Miss S Mahadevan - Head of French

[smahadevan@saintolaves.net](mailto:smahadevan@saintolaves.net)



**Student's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my son to participate in the French Exchange from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019, we shall host the partner from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and I have paid a non-refundable deposit of £100.\*

I confirm that my son has a valid individual EU/non-EU passport.\*\* A copy of the photo ID page is enclosed.\*

I confirm that my son has a valid EHIC medical card, a copy of which is enclosed.\*

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer\*\*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please tick as appropriate

\*\* Please delete as appropriate.