



# Saint Olave's Grammar School

## London 1571

Headteacher: A. Rees BSc.

LP/JBW/13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### YEAR 10 GERMAN EXCHANGE 2019

**Germans in England:** Fri 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

**English in Germany:** Sat 6<sup>th</sup> – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (during Activities Week 2)

It is with great pleasure that I invite your son to take part in our **37<sup>th</sup> German exchange!** It is with the *Gymnasium Starnberg*, an excellent mixed grammar school by Lake Starnberg near Munich in the beautiful area of Bavaria. It is an ideal opportunity for students of GCSE German to improve their oral and listening skills in the language dramatically, as well as their confidence, and to form links with Germany. It is organised by teachers of the participating schools and the approximate cost of the trip will be **£415**.

The German students visit us first, from **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**. They attend lessons at St Olave's, visit London with their teachers, and we organise a joint outing, normally to a West-End show, and a restaurant. The weekend and evenings are spent in families. Your son travels to Germany by plane in a party escorted by myself, from **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019**, to stay with the family of his exchange partner, and I remain on hand for the duration of the trip. Olavians gain first-hand experience of the German education system attending school with their partners, and we normally have guided tours of the fairy tale castle *Neuschwanstein*, which the Disney Logo is based on, of the Garmisch-Partenkirchen ski jump, famous from the Olympic Games and the Four Hills Tournament, the BMW World, Museum & Plant, where we see how the popular cars are assembled from raw material to end product, learn about the history of the company and have the opportunity to sit in cars and on motorbikes. In previous years, we have also visited the *Allianz Arena*, home of the successful *FC Bayern Munich* football club, as well as the *World of FC Bayern Munich*, where we gained behind the scenes insights into its functioning, visit the press conference area, the dressing rooms etc. We also enjoy a day in the vibrant university city of Munich, looking at the sights, learning about the White Rose Nazi-Resistance group at the University of Munich, going up the Olympic Tower, etc.

To make the trip viable, we aim at a minimum of 20 participants. If your son would like to participate, please pay a **non-refundable deposit of £200 by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. **All completed reply slips and photocopies should be handed in to Frau Probodziak**. Please write your son's name and form on the back of the photocopies, as well as 'Year 10 Starnberg Exchange'.



Should you find yourself in financial difficulties, please apply to the Headteacher 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 Frau Probodziak, 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 German whilst in Germany and English whilst in England, in order to immerse ourselves as much as possible with the target language and culture. If your son would like to improve his German substantially, looking ahead to his GCSE, or even to A-Level, he is strongly encouraged to sign up for this trip. Please be assured that you do not need to have a spare bedroom for the exchange partner and that 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 Germany. Many life-long friendships have come out of such trips – current Year 11s 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

Frau L Probodziak - Head of German

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

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### Year 10 German Exchange 2019

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

I give permission for my son to participate in the German Exchange from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019, we shall host the partner from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, and I have paid a non-refundable deposit of £200.\*

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.