06th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Yrs. 8, 9 & 10 German Exchange 2027:
German Visitors to England – Monday 1st March to Monday 8th March 2027
English Students to Germany – Monday 14 June to Monday 21 June 2027

An exchange is a unique opportunity! It is often the only time when you can experience life in a German family first-hand, really gain an insight into what it is to be German and potentially make friendships for life! The exchange will provide students with the opportunity not only to improve their command of the German language but will also enhance awareness of German culture and the German way of life, which forms so much a part of language learning. To this end, we are organising an exchange trip to our partner school in the region of Baden Württemberg in South-West Germany. The trip is for all students in Year 8, 9 & 10s and your son/daughter is invited to participate. While the exchange is open to all students, priority will be given to students currently studying German. Mr Collingridge and Ms Caswell will be accompanying the students.

The Stromberg Gymnasium, which is a grammar school, was opened in September 1999 and is located in the small and picturesque rural town of Vaihingen approximately twenty-five kilometres from the major city of Stuttgart. Vaihingen is a similar size to Marlborough, with a population of approximately 12,000. There is plenty for young people to see and do in the area.

At this planning stage, it is anticipated that the cost will be around £550.00 based on 20 students attending and will include all excursions in both the UK and Germany, air travel, transport to and from the airport and insurance**.** *Although we hope to keep the cost to the sum above, or if possible lower, we may have to increase it should exchange rates and flight costs alter significantly. We will of course advise you of any change as soon as we become aware of them, and we would offer additional time to pay any increase. Further expenses will naturally be incurred in hosting your child's German partner.*

The students will be travelling on their own Passports, and these must be valid for at least six months after the date of return. A valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). DBS checks will be required for our host families, which is included in the price above.

We have arranged an information evening for parents of students that are interested in attending the 2027 German Exchange trip. The information evening will be on Monday 19 October in room F209 from 17.00hrs.

If you have any questions at all about the exchange, please don't hesitate to contact acollingridge@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Collingridge
Head of Faculty, Modern Foreign Languages