Thursday 5th November 2026

cc/lh/GermanExch/Intltr27

Dear Parent/Carer

Yrs. 8, 9 & 10 German Exchange 2027:

German Visitors to England – Monday 1 March to Monday 8 March 2027

English Students to Germany – Monday 14 June to Sunday 21 June 2027

Following a successful information evening we are now ready to move forward with signing students up to the 2027 German Exchange trip. 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 & 10, with priority for those studying German, and your son/daughter is invited to participate. Mr Collingridge and Mrs 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 north 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.

It is anticipated that the cost will be around £550.00 based on twenty students attending and will include.

- Return air travel between London Heathrow & Stuttgart Airport
- Coach transfers in England and Germany
- All excursions in Germany plus day trip with exchange partners in England
- All meals provided by host families.
- Insurance
- DBS certificate processing for all household residence over the age of sixteen. **A meeting will be arranged in the new year to collect DBS documents etc.**

Not included in the trip cost.

- Spending money *(up to maximum of €100.00, or around €10 per day)*

To secure your son/daughters place on the trip an initial deposit of **£100.00 will be required by 30th November 2026.** Followed by five instalments as listed below. ***Please make note of these instalment dates as reminders will not be sent.***

Deposit	*Instalment 1*	*Instalment 2*	*Instalment 3*
30.11.2026	31.12.2026	29.01.2027	26.02.2027
£100	£150	£150	£150

Please ensure that payment instalments are paid in full by the due dates. Persistent overdue payment may result in your son/daughter being removed from the trip at your cost.

Trip deposits will be returned to you should there be insufficient interest in the trip or your son/daughter is not allocated a trip place. *In case of financial hardship, support is available from the St John's Opportunity Fund for Yrs.8 to 10 students.* To request support please email Miss Lorren Hulmes at; trips@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk emails will be dealt with confidentially and sympathetically

Payment should be made online through ParentPay. If you have mislaid your log in details, please contact Mr Nathan Fillingham by emailing *nfillingham@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk*

Please note that 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) will also be required.** ***Please note that students will not be able to travel without a valid EHIC/GHIC card.***

Please be advised that by signing up your child up to a school trip you are entering into a financial agreement with St John's to pay the full cost of the trip by the due date advised. Once places have been confirmed trip payments will be non-returnable unless the school cancels the trip.

Please note that should parental request withdraw a student unless for a substantiated medical reason, parents will be liable for the full cost of the trip. *All such withdrawals should be discussed, in the first instance, with Miss Lorren Hulmes via trips@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk*

It is imperative that the students who we take on the trip are responsible and can follow instructions. We will not take students who have had any exclusions this academic year or a substantial amount of negative behaviour points.

The organisation of all trips includes a comprehensive risk assessment. The Principal and Trip Organiser may choose to exclude from the trip any students whose behaviour, attendance or schoolwork is not satisfactory. *Any student withdrawn by St John's for these reasons will be at the expense of the parents. It is not possible to guarantee any refund of monies already committed by St John's and indeed expenses not already covered may be claimed from you.*

Please be aware that the medical information and contact details for your son/daughter that you have supplied for St John's records are printed and taken on the trip by the trip leader and their deputy in case an emergency arises. They are also supplied to the member of the Senior Leadership Team who is point of contact for the trip. The printouts are destroyed once the trip is over. By applying for a place on the trip, you are giving your consent for this information to be used for this purpose.

If your child is either asthmatic or has anaphylaxis, they must ensure that they always carry their inhaler or EpiPen on them during the trip.

Please be aware that in the case of an insurance claim being necessary, you will be asked to reimburse St John's for any insurance excess paid on your behalf at the time of treatment in resort. Claims for lost/stolen/damaged personal effects will be paid less any relevant excess.

Deposit payment and permission must be received by 30th November 2026.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Collingridge

Head of Faculty, Modern Foreign Languae

Principal: Mr A Henderson B.A. (Hons), PGCE
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