

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FRENCH EXCHANGE

As a member of next year's Year 10 or Year 13 studying French at SWGS, your daughter has the opportunity to participate in our highly successful French exchange. The benefits of a linguistic exchange are immeasurable – your daughter will return better able to understand and speak French, having experienced real life in a vibrant French city for a week, but also proud of herself at having coped independently with new people.

The French exchange, which has been running for 19 years, is joint with BWS and is to Le Loquidy, an independent secondary school and lycée in Nantes in north-west France. Nantes is a dynamic and modern city which is also rich in history, architectural heritage and culture. Le Loquidy has around 2000 students, and a large attractive campus near the centre of Nantes. The school has a very welcoming atmosphere and our French colleagues work hard to provide us with a varied and interesting programme of activities during our stay.

SWGS students will be matched with a French student and their family for both legs of the exchange. Our students will spend their evenings and one weekend with their host families. Our students need to be willing to talk to their partners and their host families and join in with their weekend family life and activities. English teachers stay with their French colleagues and are available 24 hours a day if there are any problems. Our students will spend schooldays with their English teachers, participating in a wide range of activities, which vary from year to year but generally include:

Year 10: Special lessons in Le Loquidy, accompanying their partners to lessons and visits to central Nantes with a treasure hunt, the Futuroscope theme park, Pornic's porcelain factory and a safari park.

Year 13: The programme is to be confirmed by my French colleague, but will definitely include the trip to the Futuroscope theme park, a visit to a local primary school and time exploring Nantes' historic sights.

The cost of the exchange covers all travel and entrance costs and French host families pay for all our students' food as well as travel costs to Le Loquidy and for any excursions they may organise at the weekend. We take an English coach and driver with us who we have worked with for many years.

When the French students visit Salisbury in the spring, English families pay for the French students' food and travel costs to SWGS and for any excursions they may organise at the weekend. English families also need to be willing and able to deposit and collect the French students from the coach or railway stations at times which occasionally do not exactly match the SWGS school day.

PLEASE NOTE: We are limited to 40 Year 10 and 25 Year 13 places over the two schools and demand is often high. In the event of there being more students wanting to participate than there are places, names will be drawn out of a hat and unsuccessful applicants will have their deposit reimbursed immediately.

There will be an information meeting for parents in September before we depart and another meeting in the spring before the French visit us.

If you have any other questions before you commit to the exchange do not hesitate to email me:
slh@swgs.wilts.sch.uk