



Vendredi, 25 novembre 2022

Re: Transition Year Student French Exchange 2022/2023

Dear Parent/guardian,

We are organising a French Exchange for Transition Students. The students must be currently studying French in TY and sit the Leaving Certificate French State Exam in June 2025. The Exchange is planned to take place at the end of this school year, i.e. May/June 2023. This is the 11th year of the Exchange with the Lycée Bourg-Chevreau-Sainte Anne (Secondary School) in France. We started in 2009.

The French students will come to Ireland first in May 2023 for 10 days (provisional dates 4th May to 15th May 2023 – to be confirmed). Our students will go to France at the end of the school year (provisional 25th May to 5th June 2023 – again to be confirmed). Dates may vary according to flight schedule and suitability for the schools and availability of teachers to travel travelling with the group.

The school receiving our students in France is Lycée Bourg-Chevreau-Sainte Anne, situated 100 km from Nantes and is a Catholic Secondary School. You can visit their web site at the following address: <https://lycee-bourg-chevreau.paysdelaloire.e-lyco.fr/> and the host town: <https://www.segreenanjoubleu.fr/> <http://flagspot.net/flags/fr-49-se.html>. We plan to fly from Dublin to Nantes with Ryanair.

Our students going over to France will attend French school and stay with a French family. The same would apply for the French students when they visit Ireland in May 2023, i.e. they will attend Salesian Secondary College and stay with an Irish family (one student per family). Full boarding in both instances is provided by the host families.

The total cost of the Exchange is estimated at €550 (cost of Ryanair flights at the time of the booking to be confirmed). A non-refundable deposit of €250 towards flights is required on or before December 16th 2022. A photocopy of the student's Passport will also need to be handed into the school before the 16th December.

You will be required to make payment of the non-refundable deposit €250 direct to a Travel Agent, who we have to deal with the book flights for legal and insurance reasons. This information will be distributed to students who commit to the Exchange. The balance of the Exchange cost of €300 is payable to the school via the School App only after February.

Flights booked now can be cheaper than later in the year. Flights are booked together, so it is essential that every participant pays the non-refundable deposit to the Travel Agent via their website on or before the December 22th and provide a photocopy of the student's Passport at the same time to the school.

The costs involved in the Exchange are as follows:

- Ø Return airfare (Ryanair: Dublin to Nantes)
- Ø Return bus Dublin from Limerick (City Link)

- Ø Tourist attractions while in France
- Ø Tourist attractions while in Ireland

In your budget, you need to include the following additional extra costs:

- Ø Pocket money for some tourist attractions, places of interest and of course some souvenirs!

Transfer from the airports to the host families' houses is organised by the families themselves in France. Teachers will be at the airports too. Likewise, when the French students arrive to Ireland we ask that you collect students from Arthur's Quay bus stop in Limerick.

At this point in time, before we finalise dates, and look for "matching" students and families, we are asking you for your level of interest. Accordingly, can you discuss the following with your son/daughter:

Are you willing to host a French student for 10 days in April/May 2020? During the day the student will be in the school and will part take in classes.

- Is your child motivated in learning the French language and culture?
- Does he/she intend to sit French for the Leaving Certificate?
- Can your child adapt to a new environment easily and be happy for example to try out new food, a new culture, new sports, etc.?

Student Exchange has countless benefits for a student keen to embark on this international adventure. There is a great deal of independence inherent in an Exchange Program. Going overseas without one's parents and stepping outside an existing social network develops confidence, responsibility, initiative and accountability. Many students have to leave home after the Leaving Certificate for a college place. This is a good stepping stone:

- Learning to work through the challenges of adapting to a new culture, family and school gives students increased maturity, confidence and flexibility. Our students develop self-awareness and understanding of the world and international relations, leading to a much worldlier, focused and determined approach upon return to Ireland.

Some of our students who travelled initially with the school have kept contact with their partner through social media, emails, Facebook or the old fashion snail mail etc... and indeed a number of them have returned to France the following year / summer! Some of the Exchange Partners of 11 years ago still meet and have become great friends or attend weddings!

A French Exchange is an experience for your child to develop his/her language skills, improve her/his speaking, listening, and writing and comprehension skills; therefore a unique opportunity to do better at the Leaving Certificate French.

To give you a flavour of what your child will do while in France, here is a list of the activities enjoyed by our students during previous exchanges:

- Attending normal classes with their partner (maths, geography, science, PE, history etc....)

- Participating in the day to day activities of French family life, going to family reunions, sport events etc...
- Work experience in the local primary schools: 2 hour visit, in two or more different primary schools, the Irish students will teach English to pupils, having prepared lessons in advance (songs, vocabulary etc....)
- Many visits in the local area

The activities are organised by the school and the teachers during the week days, at the week-end, the families organise the activities. Students know in advance their timetable for the week days.

If you are willing to host a French student next May and send your child to Bourg-Chevreau in May/June 2023, then please complete the form attached and return to the school office on or before Friday, 16th December 2023. Having ascertained the level of interest among our students we will organise meeting. This is currently planned for Monday 19th December 2023 at 8pm in School which you and your son/daughter should attend. At this meeting we will answer any questions you may have and confirm numbers with Bourg-Chevreau. A non-refundable deposit of €250 for payment of flights will be required to be paid to the nominated Travel Agent on or before the 22th December 2023 with a photocopy of the student's passport provided to the school at that time.

We look forward to hearing from you.

À bientôt,

Armelle Mangan

French Teacher

Karen O'Sullivan

French Teacher

Caitríona Morgan-O'Brien

Principal