

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The school is very fortunate to have established (pre-Covid) a direct link to a school in France. This provides an excellent opportunity for pupils at Bowbrook to develop close ties with students in the French school. Indeed, year 8 students exchanged letters last year. I have been liaising with Mme Dorangeville, my counterpart in France, to arrange a possible exchange, similar to the very successful visits we made in 2019 and 2023.

We are hoping to offer pupils the chance of staying for a few days with a French family from 21st to 25th May 2025. This would be on the understanding that the pupil's family would first host the French partner from the 24th to 28th March, 2025. The French student would need their own bedroom during their visit.

The advantages of this type of visit are numerous. Not only is it cheaper than other forms of foreign visit but it also allows the pupil to be fully "immersed" in the foreign language and culture during their stay. In many cases, such exchanges lead to lasting friendships, which continue long after the initial exchange and can involve whole families.

We are in the initial stages of planning the exchange and would like to gauge the interest of pupils and parents at Bowbrook. The French students involved are all currently year 9 students but I am sure that students in any year from 7,8, 9,10 or 11 could benefit.

The cost per student in 2023 was £200, which also included visits to local places of interest. Despite travel disruption and increased fuel prices, I would still hope to keep the cost around the same but I must stress, this is only a "ball-park" estimate until we can establish more precise numbers.

If you would like your child to take part in the exchange or you would consider hosting a French student, please tick one of the boxes on the reply slip below as appropriate. There is no obligation at this stage for your child to go to France or for you to host a French student.

Pupil name

Form

I would like my child to host a French student

☐

I would like my child to host a French student **and**

☐

take part in the return visit to France

Parent signature.....

Date.....