

# Tomlinscote School & Sixth Form College

*A Specialist Language College*



05 April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: School Exchange with Germany 2019**

For many years now we have organised very successful exchange visits to the Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium, a Grammar school in Wendlingen just outside Stuttgart, and I would like to invite your daughter/son to take part in the next exchange visit. Throughout the twenty years of our partnership, this has remained a very popular visit for our German learners with many students enjoying the exchange so much that they have participated a second time. The staff of our partner school are totally committed to their exchange programme and it has in every sense an international ethos.

It is proposed that the German party will visit us for 10 days in Summer 2019. The provisional dates are 1<sup>st</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 but these will have to be confirmed. Tomlinscote students will go to Germany in the first half of October 2019. These dates will be confirmed in due course. German students will be in the UK for a total of 9 nights, while our students will spend 7 nights in Germany. This is due to a difference in the way that the two schools organise their annual calendar of activities, including trips abroad.

Wendlingen is on the edge of the Swabian Alb with easy access to the facilities of the city of Stuttgart. The area is scenically very attractive, close to the Black Forest, the Bavarian lakes and Munich. Students will travel by air to Stuttgart and stay with students of the Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium. Every effort will be made to match students according to hobbies and interests. Obviously, you would be expected to host your child's German exchange partner as part of their stay in England. Whilst here, the German students will travel by train to various day trip destinations. It is expected that parents will arrange lifts/lift shares to and from Farnborough Main/North train stations on the days the German students have to travel by train.

We are hoping that the cost of the exchange will not exceed £350 per student. This will include return flights, a full programme of excursions and insurance. The final cost will depend on the total number of participants, the cost of excursions and other activities while in Germany, and the cost of flights. We will inform you of the final price once numbers have been determined. Exchanges represent excellent value for money compared with the cost of all other school trips.

Apart from attending school in Wendlingen, there will be a full programme of activities in Germany (and for German students in England). This will include some days in school and a variety of excursions. During our October 2018 visit students spent a day in Tübingen and visited the Lichtenstein castle in the Swabian Alb. Evenings and weekends will be spent with families. Students will be supervised by their own teachers and will have access to them 24 hours a day if needed.



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*Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College is part of  
The Prospect Trust, registered in England number 10842315*

*Registered office: Prospect Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8JX*



Our school is in a very privileged position to be able to offer this opportunity to our students. Recent research suggests that overseas exchange trips, once a rite of passage for teenagers, are now offered by a minority of schools. According to an article published by the BBC only 39% of 450 schools surveyed in Britain offer this type of exchange. Reviving these trips is vital to "tackle a national language crisis" says the British Council.

There is no substitute for an exchange visit for those who really wish to make progress in a foreign language, and there is strong evidence at Tomlinscote that those who take part in an exchange visit achieve higher grades in GCSE. These visits not only boost language learning but also give pupils a unique taste of life abroad.

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in the Exchange please complete the attached reply slip and return it **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**. A £100 **non-refundable** deposit (deposits are, however, refunded if your son/daughter is not offered a place on the exchange) will be required. We cannot guarantee your child will be considered for the Exchange if the reply slip and deposit is paid after the deadline.

If you already use **Parentpay** to credit your son/daughter's catering account, you'll see another item for payment available from 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Just click on this and you'll be taken through the easy payment process. If you haven't used Parentpay before or if you've forgotten your login details, please e-mail Mrs Strong on [lstrong@tomlinscoteschool.com](mailto:lstrong@tomlinscoteschool.com) who would be able to assist you. Please note we are no longer able to accept cash or cheques.

May we remind you that it is school policy that mobile phones are not allowed on school trips. In keeping with national guidance for safeguarding children, we reserve the right to request a DBS check on host family members.

Under the terms of the 1999 Education Reform Act it is also necessary to indicate that the contribution requested must be regarded as a voluntary contribution. Should insufficient voluntary contributions be forthcoming it will be necessary to review the viability of the trip.

Surplus funds arising from the trip will be returned to parents where the surplus amounts to £5 a head or more. Surpluses of less than this will be retained for the benefit of the whole school.

If financial hardship prevents anyone from participating in the exchange, please let me know of this in writing. The information will, of course, be treated as confidential. Limited funding is sometimes available to assist in such cases.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major  
Interim Principal

# REPLY SLIP - GERMAN EXCHANGE 2019

TO BE RETURNED TO THE MFL OFFICE, ROOM B1.3 BY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019

I would like my son/daughter\* .....  
Tutor group.....  
to participate in the German Exchange 2019 with the Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium in Wendlingen.

\*please delete as appropriate

I agree to accommodate an Exchange student in return and understand that there will be a need to take/collect the German student to Farnborough Main/North train station on the days they have excursions.

I have already paid via Parentpay a £100 non-refundable deposit for my son/daughter

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Tutor group.....  
to go on the German Exchange 2019 with the Robert-Bosch Gymnasium in Wendlingen.

Signature of Parent / Guardian.....

Date.....