



26th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

German Exchange

It is very exciting to be able to announce that for the academic year 2017/18 we will be running a trip to a German-speaking part of the world in order to support all those students in the school who are learning, or who want to learn, German.

The trip will be quite unique as we will be visiting the town of Bozen (also known as Bolzano) which although in northern Italy, is in the South Tyrol, which is a bilingual German/Italian region where the German language is an official language and is spoken very widely as a native language. We therefore expect that we will have the double benefit of being immersed not only in the German language and culture of the area, but also the cultural and gastronomic experience of being in Italy!

We have established a partnership with the German-speaking Sozialwissenschaftliches Gymnasium school in Bozen (<http://www.sogym.bz.it>) through a long-standing teaching contact. The school is for native German speakers and they learn Italian and English as foreign languages. Most of my German classes have already written penpal letters to students in that school.

The visit will take place during the February half term week in 2018 (the week of 12th – 19th February 2018) but the precise dates are to be finalised in the Autumn term.

Your child will be paired with a student of a similar age and interests and your son or daughter will stay with that child's family for the duration of the visit.

We will, of course, in close collaboration with the teachers with our partner school, conduct a range of risk assessments and safety checks on potential host families before determining their suitability for hosting our students. In this respect, we follow the advice and guidance of educational school trip experts at Cambridgeshire County Council who specialise in helping to arrange school exchange visits in which host families provide accommodation.

Although we are calling this an exchange visit, unfortunately the German speaking students are unable to visit us this year, so in effect, it is a one-way exchange visit, with just a group from our school making a visit. You will therefore not be expected to host a German-speaking child in your home. If this visit is a success, then we hope, in coming years, to make it possible for the German-speaking students to make the return journey and visit us here in Ely.

Whilst at this stage the final programme is being planned out, we expect to undertake a range of cultural and linguistic activities during our stay, including:

1. Visit to partner school and attending lessons with partners
2. Working on a collaborative project with partners on the topic of multilingualism/bilingualism
3. Visiting local archaeological museum to learn about mummified body found in the ice (www.iceman.it)
4. Tour around the town of Bozen and the surrounding area, including excursion into the Alps
5. Visit to local sports facilities, e.g. indoor climbing centre, swimming pool
6. Day trip to Venice by train
7. Evening meal at a local restaurant with exchange partners and families



The final price of the trip is not expected to be more than £500 per student, although this has not yet been finalised. We are currently investigating whether travel by coach or air would be most suitable as this, of course, is the main item of expense for the visit. The more students who take part, the less the overall price per student is expected to be. We aim to have ready for the start of term in September a final price for you.

We would ask, therefore, at this stage that if you would like to secure a place on the trip for your son or daughter, to complete the attached 'expression of interest' form and return it to school with a cheque/payment of £50 as a deposit to be held on account. This sum would be refundable if the trip does not go ahead if insufficient numbers of students to make the trip viable.

We would encourage payment to be made online via WisePay in the usual way. Please complete and return the reply slip below. We will ensure the full price can be paid via manageable instalments to ease financial burdens. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding and you would like to access some of this funding towards this trip, please indicate on the reply slip so we can consider this request.

Please note that students who already have a valid individual passport will be expected to use this to travel. If your child does not already have their own individual passport, then in most circumstances they can be included for a very small fee (much less than the cost of applying for a new passport) on a school group passport. This will ensure that as many students as possible can take part in the visit and that they are not put off by the additional cost of a new passport which can sometimes be around £100. If you would like your child to join the visit and they do not currently have their own passport, then please let us know as soon as possible so that we can start to make the necessary arrangements for a group passport.

I will be holding an **information session about the German Exchange on Wednesday 5th July at 6pm in classroom A12**, so if you would like to find out more, then you would be most welcome to attend. It is not compulsory to attend the session if you would like to send your child on the trip; it is simply a chance to find out more about the visit and, in particular, the arrangements which we put in place to ensure safety whilst staying in host families. If you cannot attend the session on the 5th then I would be more than happy to speak (or email) with you separately and help to answer any queries which you may have. I will also share any resources or presentations that are made available at the information session.

Students of all ages are welcome to put their names down for the visit. It would be of particular interest and benefit to any students doing GCSE German but it would also be motivational and interesting for students in Years 7 and 8 too. Exchanges of this nature in which students stay with host families are widely recognised to be very beneficial not only to a student's language learning capability, but they also are incredibly beneficial for a range of soft skills such as confidence, self-esteem and independence.

I look forward to meeting you at the information evening and also welcoming your child on this very exciting trip. Should you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me: JOReilly-Turner@elycollege.co.uk

Please return your reply slips as soon as possible before the end of the Summer term to Ms O'Reilly-Turner.

Yours faithfully

J. O'Reilly-Turner

Ms J O'Reilly-Turner
Teacher of Languages



German Exchange 2018 – Ms J Jen O'Reilly-Turner

Child's Name:

DOB:

Form:

Nationality:

Country of Birth:

Home Address:

Emergency contact 1:
Name, address, mobile, email

Emergency contact 2:
Name, address, mobile, email

- I will/will not be attending the information session on Wednesday 5th July 2017
- I enclose a deposit cheque made payable to "Ely College" for £50
- I have paid the £50 deposit via WisePay
- My child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding and would like to access some of this funding towards this trip
- My child has their own passport, or
- My child needs to be included on school group passport

Signed Parent/Carer:

Date:

