

28 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Toulouse Trip – 17 – 24 March 2024

We are writing to let you know about an opportunity for a limited number of year 11 students to host a visiting French student from a school near Toulouse, as well as to have the option to go on a combined French, Business studies and Economics exchange trip to Toulouse when they are in year 12 in November 2025. This would obviously be particularly suitable for anyone thinking of taking French A level next year, but would also be good for anyone taking Economics and Business Studies. To be honest it would be a good cultural experience regardless of your A level choices next year. It obviously gives a good opportunity to meet and host a French student this year and for GCSE French students gives a great a chance to practice speaking in the other's language - excellent preparation for GCSE French.

Our program for this year's visit (we have recently returned from this) which we would look to closely replicate included a visit to the very impressive AirBus factory, an Aerospace museum including going inside aircraft including Concorde, and the massive Airbus A380. We had visits to the beautiful city centre of Toulouse as well as an amazing food market. We had a day experiencing lessons in a French school including a really informative lecture about the French, regional and local economies. We had a business visit and tour of a professional French Rugby Club (Colomiers) where we were shown round by Colomiers and Toulouse Rugby legend - David Skrela a former fly half/centre with over 20 caps for France. Our students also had an option to join in with a training session with the Colomiers under 18 squad. All of the boys said how much they enjoyed the trip - particularly the exchange element getting to know their exchange partners and families who were fabulous hosts.

As this is an exchange trip there is an expectation that you would host a French student when they visit from 17 – 24 March. This is a big commitment but one that I feel should be a rewarding experience for both families and students. In addition, being hosted in Toulouse in November by families means that we are able to keep the overall cost of the trip down thanks to not having to pay for accommodation there. We have just returned 2 weeks ago from the equivalent trip which was fantastic and great value. This year's cost was £400 which paid for return BA flights from Heathrow, and 6 days staying in Toulouse and all our visits. While we can not tell you the final price as this is dependent on flight costs at the time, we are aiming to keep next year's costs at a similar level. We carried out a survey of students that went on the equivalent trip just a few weeks ago. 100 % of students said that the overall experience of the trip was good or excellent (40 % said excellent). 80 % rated the trip as being excellent value for money -the remaining 20 % said good. All said the experience of living with a French family was good or excellent.

To secure your son's place on the trip please pay an initial deposit of £50 through Parent Pay to **Toulouse 25**. The trip is for RGS 6th form students next year - so if your son ends up not joining the RGS 6th form the deposit would be repaid
Alternatively, if you just want take part in the hosting element and not the trip - that is fine just let us know.

1. To allow the hosting element to take place there is a formal vetting process including the requirement for families to undertake a DBS:
2. Complete [the initial DBS Google form](#) with the name and email address of any adult resident in your household. Please complete this by **1st December**.
3. We will then pass these details to Bucks County Council who will send each person an online form to complete. Please ensure you complete this form by **6th**.
4. Once this form has been completed, you can then complete the ID checks required for the DBS. Please note each person requiring a DBS prior to hosting must bring in 3 pieces of identification in person to school. Here is a link which confirms suitable documents for identification for the DBS check: <https://www.gov.uk/criminal-record-check-documents>. Please note, we must see the originals and cannot accept photocopies. If you could ensure that the three documents you bring include one document from Group 1, and 2 further documents from either Group 1, or Group 2a or 2b from the list on this website, that would be much appreciated.

Please arrange a suitable time to do this by emailing dec@rgshw.com ID checks can be completed either by Mr Clatworthy or our HR Team **between 8.00am and 4.30pm Monday-Friday. ID checks must be completed by 13th December**, otherwise we run the risk of DBS checks not coming back in time and you not being able to host.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all about this.

Yours Faithfully

Nick Gearing - Subject leader French

Alastair Newton - Subject Leader Business Studies