

## Why do we run exchanges?

Every year, RGS pupils go on exchange trips to France, Germany and Spain. These visits provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to visit the respective country, experience a different culture, make new friends and improve their command of the language, as well as develop qualities of independence and self-reliance. Such a visit is invaluable given the emphasis placed on oral and listening proficiency at GCSE.

## During the exchange...

Whichever country they go to, our pupils will be in daily contact with accompanying teachers who ensure they feel comfortable in their host families. Apart from the weekends, teachers will either meet every day at the exchange school or be on day trips together. Students will have the opportunity to take part in lessons at school, visit the host city and its surroundings and will be prompted to use their linguistic skills through during the day with the accompanying teachers.

We know that exchanges can be daunting and students often worry about communicating in another language. All our exchange families are very welcoming and always go out of their way to organise activities for our students at the weekend. Our experience is that exchange trips often change pupils' views of the language they study, its people and culture but in the familiar context of a family and through making friends with people of their own age.

## What now?

### Contacting Trip Leaders:

- [French: Miss Gidon jmg@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:jmg@rgsw.org.uk)
- [Spanish: Mr Hutchinson ajh@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:ajh@rgsw.org.uk)
- [German: Dr Beer djb@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:djb@rgsw.org.uk)

### Preparing and Planning

In order to prepare for an exchange, we encourage students to revise vocabulary and key phrases to introduce themselves and be able to chat with their exchange partners and family.

Others trips might take place in the same year; planning ahead and checking the dates with the trip leader will ensure that you can join the exchange.



# RGS Exchange Programme



## Spanish Exchange

Year 10



### Zaragoza - El Instituto Goya

We have been running the exchange for more than 10 years now. We travel to the beautiful region of Aragón for about 10 days and organise the exchange with the Instituto Goya, a co-education secondary school located at the centre of Zaragoza.

During the trip, we usually visit the Roman Theatre, el Palacio de La Aljafería and el Palacio de Sástago illustrating the Arabic influence and Aragón's style. In the mountains near the city, we visit the wonderful Monasterio de Piedra.

We also take the train and go to Madrid for a day packed with activities and fun. The Bernabeu Stadium is always a favourite of this trip.

## French Exchange

Year 9



### Nantes - Externat des Enfants Nantais

Recently, we have celebrated the 30th anniversary of this exchange. We are always very well welcomed at the Externat, a co-educational private school in the centre of Nantes.

During our visit, we discover the Castle of Anne de Bretagne, the only woman to have been Queen twice in French history. We spend a morning completing a quiz in a covered market and love practising our French to buy pastries and baguettes!

In the centre of Nantes, the visit to the îles aux Machines is always full of surprises.

## German Exchange

Year 9 + 10



### Kleve - The Konrad Adenauer Gymnasium

In Worcester's twin town, Kleve, we are always warmly welcomed by the Mayor at the beginning of our stay. Our exchange partners are always really excited to show us round their city and help us practise our German.

We usually spend a day at school and we are always surprised at how well they can speak English! During the rest of the week, we often visit the beautiful and historic town of Münster. The Cathedral is always the highlight of this trip as it hosts the famous astronomical clock's bell.

If time allows, we like to visit Cologne too and immerse ourselves in its vibrant atmosphere.