



SIMON LANGTON

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3 September 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

YEAR 12 AND 13 GERMAN EXCHANGE to Berlin in March 2019

I am writing to invite your son/daughter to take part in next year's German exchange trip to Berlin. The dates for the return visit to Canterbury have not yet been confirmed.

The Langton has run exchanges to Berlin for a number of years, and we are very fortunate to have a high-achieving grammar school, the *Bertha von Suttner Schule*, as our partner school. There is so much historical and cultural interest in Berlin, and combined with the fascinating experience of living with a local family, this is an excellent opportunity to practise the skills and language learnt in the classroom. It is always a delight to see how much our students enjoy participating in this exchange and to observe the progress they make with their German. The A level German specification, which your daughter/son will be following over the next two years, requires students to develop their ability to respond to questions in an ad hoc fashion; those students, who have been on the exchange in the past, have found staying in German host families has been very helpful in terms of developing their ability to speak spontaneously. It is not uncommon for Langtonians to be invited to stay for a second or third time with their host families, and in the past this has led to opportunities for work experience in areas such as medical practice or helped future university and job applications to stand out from the crowd.

Possible destinations for trips out could include the Bundestag, the Brandenburg Gate, the Stasi Prison, Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial, the Berlin Wall Memorial, the Eastside Gallery and Potsdam. The idea is to visit at least one of these sights every day. Since some students may already have visited the capital I will be considering requests for alternative sight-seeing options to be included in the programme.

Since the *Bertha von Suttner Schule* is a co-ed school, it is likely their group of exchange partners will include a mixture of boys and girls. I will endeavour to match the sexes as far as possible; please indicate on the matching form, if you are willing to host a student of the opposite sex from your child.

At this stage the estimated cost of the trip is £385 which will include all travel, excursions and insurance. Once I have a better idea of the number of students wanting to take part, I will be able to give a definitive assessment of the trip's cost.

The school has funds available to help any families who are in financial difficulties regarding school trips. Please contact the school Finance Officer who will make the appropriate arrangements confidentially. You may wish to contact the Finance Officer in any case, if your family receives Income Support or Family Credit, where special rules apply.

I hope you will see this exchange trip as a valuable experience and that your son/daughter will be able to participate. Please do not hesitate to contact me at dskitch@thelangton.kent.sch.uk, should you have any questions about the exchange.

I would be very grateful if you could show initial interest by either returning the completed cut off slip or by replying to me via email by **Friday 13 September**. A first deposit of £80 on WisePay will be due on 20 September 2019.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Dee Skitch

Subject Leader for German
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys



Year 12 Berlin Exchange 2019/2020

I would like my son/daughter to participate in the Berlin exchange.

Son/daughter's name Form:

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signed (parent/guardian)

Please return this slip by 13 September 2019 or express your interest via email to dskitch@thelangton.kent.sch.uk

