



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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Maths & Computing



APPLIED LEARNING

11th May 2010

HUNGARIAN EXCHANGE FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian

This letter is to inform you about the **Hungarian Exchange** which is now open to Year 9 students. Your son/daughter will have learnt about the exchange today in an assembly which was presented by Mr Redfern and Mrs Sylvester and also by students who have previously taken part in the exchange.

The link between St Benedict's and the Hungarian school, St Imre, goes back many years and after a break the exchange was reinstated in 2004 by Mrs Sylvester. Since then three very successful exchanges have taken place whereby St Benedict's pupils have travelled to Hungary in the Autumn term of Year 10 where they are hosted by Hungarian students and their families. The Hungarian student has then returned a year later (Autumn of Year 11) to be hosted by their English partner's family.

When we are in Hungary the St Imre teachers always organise a very active cultural week and as the school is in the capital, Budapest, we usually use all forms of public transport to visit many of Budapest's famous sights.

We have also travelled to exciting places further afield, including one of Hungary's legendary equestrian centres, a 'High Wires' activity centre in the countryside, an archery training centre at a castle and, of course, a fun fair! There are also more relaxed social events during the week, one of which usually includes trying traditional Hungarian food! Evenings and the weekend are then spent with each individual exchange partner's family.

The Hungarian students and their families are very keen to develop their English speaking and have proved to be surprisingly good English speakers. Indeed, there have been few difficulties in communication and St Benedict's students are not expected to learn Hungarian, although they are of course free to do so if they wish! It is also important to note that in the past host families have looked after our students very well and they are chosen with great care by the St Imre staff.

All in all, this exchange has in past years proven to be a truly memorable learning adventure, offering the chance for students to explore and learn about Hungary and its culture, as well as providing the potential for students to develop a long term international friend. With this in mind, it must be remembered that students who want to take part feel that they are capable of being open to new experiences and that they can show a sense of maturity and reliability.



Uganda



Hungary



France



This year we anticipate that the exchange will take place between the weeks starting 11th and 18th October 2010. If you and your son/daughter are interested in participating you will need to act quickly though as there are a **maximum of 12 places** which will ideally consist of 6 boys and 6 girls. We have calculated that the **overall cost of this exchange will be £290** which includes flights, insurance, transport, and all activities/arrangements in Hungary and for the reciprocal exchange. This amount will be absolutely confirmed when flights are booked. It is not possible to cover these costs from school funds so we ask parents of children attending to volunteer a contribution of £290 in order that the trip can take place. Inability of a parent to make this payment should not preclude their child from attending, if the trip takes place. Please contact either myself or Mr Nallen at school if this is the case.

To register your interest please fill in and return the reply slip below with a cheque for £90 by Monday 17th May to Mrs Whitehouse in the finance office. Do not use the online parent pay system at this point as cheques will not be cashed until places are allocated. If your son/daughter gains a place we will write to you to confirm this before flights are booked. Cheques will be returned to those who do not gain a place.

Lastly, we would like to reassure you that as experienced teachers we are fully committed to the health, safety and well being of your son/daughter if they become involved in this exchange. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact either of us at school.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Redfern

Mrs T Sylvester

Please complete the reply slip below and return it with your deposit for £90.00 to Mrs Whitehouse in the Finance Office.

I have received the letter dated 11th May 2010 regarding the Hungarian Exchange and would like my son/daughter to visit Hungary in October 2010.

Name of Pupil: _____ Form: _____

Home Tel No: _____

I enclose a deposit of £90.00 (cheques made payable to St Benedict's Catholic High School).

Signed: _____ Date: _____