



## Oundle School

*From: Jens Röhrborn (i/c Fourth Form Exchange)*

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Dear Parent,

### **Fourth Form German Exchange to Hamburg 2008**

Oundle's German Exchange runs in conjunction with Gymnasium Willhöden, a co-educational state grammar school situated in the western part of Hamburg, near the river Elbe. The scheme has been running very successfully for more than ten years and has proved extremely popular.

The GCSE exam lays great emphasis on oral proficiency as well as on the ability to understand natural spoken German and we have found that participating in the Exchange invariably improves the pupils' grade predictions. Just as crucial, however, is their noticeable gain in confidence resulting from their attempts to understand and speak German in the native environment. They also derive great enjoyment from getting to know Germans of their own age and experiencing an entirely different kind of school. The Headmaster and the German Department therefore strongly recommend participation in this Exchange in the Fourth Form. If, for some reason, participation this year is not possible, however, there may be an opportunity take part in the Exchange in the Fifth Form.

The structure of the Exchange differs from that of the French Exchange, in which your son or daughter may be involved this year, in that the pupils have an opportunity to experience both school and home life in Germany, staying with host families. When the German pupils visit Oundle they spend part of their visit living at School and part staying at the home of their English partner's family during the Long Exeat.

In the case of those Oundle pupils whose home is overseas and whose family cannot therefore host their German partners during the Long Exeat, the School can make alternative arrangements. In such cases the German partners would stay either with their UK guardians or with other UK resident participating families who are willing to host two visitors.

### **SCHEDULE OF VISITS**

Please note that there has been a slight change to the previously published dates.

**(a) Oundle at Gymnasium Willhöden:** Wednesday 2nd April to Saturday 12th April 2008\*  
(Lent Quarter ends 20th March 2008; Trinity Quarter begins Sunday 13th April, 2008)

**(b) Exchange partners with their English host families:** Wednesday 28th May to Sunday 1st June 2008.

The German group would arrive on the Wednesday half-way through the Trinity Quarter Long Exeat, stay with their host families and then return with their English Exchange partners to School at the end of the Long Exeat.

(Trinity Quarter Long Exeat: Saturday 24th May 2008 to Sunday 1st June 2008)

(c) **Exchange partners at Oundle** (at School or with Laxton families): Sunday 1st June to Saturday 7th June 2008

\*Please also note that the departure to Hamburg and return dates may vary by a day or so either side. We will advise precise departure/return dates as soon as we have an exact number of participants and we can book and confirm our flights.

## **COST**

The cost of the Exchange will be in the region of £350 (subject to reasonable flight fares).

This includes:

- return flight to Hamburg for your son or daughter (we have used either Birmingham or Heathrow Airports in the past, depending on the availability of cheap flights)
- expenses for the German party while in Oundle (transport, entrance fees etc.)
- coach travel between the airport and Oundle (other travel costs are not included)

## **CONFIRMATION REQUIRED**

In order to secure your son or daughter's place on the Exchange, please print out and fill in the consent form **by 29th October** and return it to me by post or fax so that we can secure the best flights. **Email is unfortunately not acceptable as your signature is needed.** Places will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.

If your son or daughter will not be participating I should be most grateful if you would email me accordingly so that I know you have read this letter and made a decision and I will not need to contact you again.

Yours sincerely,

J Röhrborn