



## Oundle School

From: Jens Röhrborn

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30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Dear Parents,

### **Fourth Form German Exchange 2009 to Hamburg**

Some of you may have been told about this Exchange at the last Parents' Reception and may have already responded by email. This letter gives more details about this exchange.

Oundle has had a thriving exchange programme for over 10 years with this particular school in Hamburg which has proved to be extremely popular and very successful. Gymnasium Willhöden is situated in the western part of Hamburg, near the river Elbe. It is a modern, state co-educational grammar school. The structure of this exchange is quite different to the French one, in which your son/daughter may be participating this year. We believe that the best insight into modern Germany for pupils of this age comes from seeing both school and home life. Consequently, when the German pupils visit Oundle; part of the time is spent at School and part of the visit is at home with the English partner's family. *We would also like to encourage overseas pupils to take part even if it will not be possible to host a German pupil on the return visit.* We would then find alternative arrangements for them to stay here in England for the few days during the Long Exeat (either with their UK guardians, or some UK resident families can host two German pupils).

*Schedule of visits – there has been a slight change of the previously published dates:*

**Oundle at Gymnasium Willhöden :**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009**  
(at the beginning of the Easter Holidays)

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**Exchange partners with their English host families:**  
**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> May – Sun 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009**  
(half way through the Trinity Quarter Long Exeat)

**Willhöden in Oundle (at School – or with Laxton families):**  
**Sun 31<sup>st</sup> May – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Oundle School holidays are as follows:

**Easter Quarter 2009** finishes on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (pupils would miss the last day of this Quarter and would still have the majority of the holidays after their return)

**Trinity Quarter 2009 Long Exeat: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009**  
(the German group would arrive half way through our Long Exeat (on the Wed), stay the rest of the break in families and then return with their English exchange partners back to School together)

Please also note that the precise date may vary by a day or so at each end. 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 for the whole exchange will be in the region of £400 (subject to reasonable flight fares).

This includes:

- return flight for your son/daughter to and from Hamburg (we have used either Birmingham or Heathrow in the past-whichever has the better offer)
- expenses for the German party while in Oundle (transport, entrance fees etc.)
- coach travel between Airport and Oundle (other travel costs are not included)

Confirmation:

Could I ask you to fill in the consent form below (also available on the website) and return it either by post or by fax. **As a signature is required, email confirmation will not suffice.** If your son/daughter will **not** be taking part, I would appreciate the form being returned, or a short email as a form of acknowledgment that you have received this letter and made a decision.

Finally...

The GCSE exam lays great emphasis on oral proficiency as well as on the ability to understand natural spoken German. Obviously it is vital for our pupils to approach the visit to Germany in the right frame of mind if the maximum benefit is to be derived. The exchange is an important part of our pupils' experience of Germany which invariably improves grade predictions. Just as crucial, however, is the fact that the vast majority of pupils derive genuine enjoyment from the greater confidence which comes with learning to understand and speak German in the native environment and of getting to know Germans of their own age through having a taste of an entirely different kind of school. The Headmaster and the German Department therefore strongly recommend the participation in this exchange in the Fourth Form. There may be a chance to take part in the exchange in the Fifth Form.

Yours truly,

J Röhrborn

# German Exchange 2009:

## Parental Consent Form

I confirm that I give consent for my son / daughter

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to take part in the Fourth Form German Exchange with *Gymnasium Willhöden (Hamburg)* in 2009. (for dates see accompanying letter)

I understand that the cost will be in the region of £400 to include travel to and within Germany, plus accommodation and the entertaining of my son / daughter's exchange partner while at Oundle School.

I should like my son / daughter to take part: YES

I **do not** want my son / daughter to take part: NO

(If ticked 'No' would you be prepared to give reasons why not? (\*):

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.....  
.....

(\* ) not compulsory.

Signed.....

Date.....

Name.....

**PLEASE RETURN TO: (deadline: Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008)**

**Herr J Rohrborn, Oundle School, German Department, Church Street,  
Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4EE**