

Friday 25 April 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Year 9 French Exchange with Collège de l'Alma, Paris - Tuesday 6 – Monday 12  
January 2026**

I am writing to inform you of an opportunity for your child to participate in our Year 9 French Exchange with the Collège de l'Alma, a school in the very centre of Paris, near the Eiffel Tower.

We will travel to Paris during the winter break on Tuesday 6 January and return on Monday 12 January—please note that this is the first day of the spring term and students will miss lessons on that day. The return visit for the French students will take place in June 2026, in term time, after half term and after the Y9 exams. We will travel by Eurostar and the cost will be in the region of £600. This price will cover all transport costs and excursions, and your child will have all meals provided by their host family, including a packed lunch during the week. They will need some pocket money to cover the costs of any extra drinks and snacks and souvenirs that they may wish to purchase.

Your child will be paired up with a French student and will be hosted individually in their home near the school. They will spend the weekend of the 10/11 January with them and their family. On the other days, while their exchange partners are at school, the students will be accompanied by Habs teachers on various excursions before being reunited with their exchange partner at the end of the school day. Our provisional itinerary includes trips to the Louvre and other museums, the Palace of Versailles, Montmartre, a boat trip on the Seine, and a tour of the Stade de France (PSG's home ground). They will also spend time in the school itself, giving them an experience of life and lessons in the French education system.

Naturally, you will need to be willing to host and look after your child's exchange partner when they return in June 2025, in the same way that your child was looked after in Paris. When the French students come to us, your child will come to school with their exchange partner in the week and then go to their lessons as normal. The French students will then undertake a programme of excursions, returning to school each day in time for the coaches. At the weekend, they will be with you.

As well as having a lot of fun on the trip discovering the cultural and architectural wonders of one of the world's great cities, the students notice a marked improvement in their comprehension, oral fluency and confidence in speaking French. Many students keep in touch with their partners for years, and often the French and English families become great friends. The Collège de l'Alma is one of the top private schools in Paris and has an excellent academic and pastoral reputation equal to that of Haberdashers'. We have been running this exchange for many years; we are always very warmly welcomed, and the students thoroughly enjoy the experience.



Gus Lock, *Headmaster*

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Registered charity no. 313996

If your child would like to apply for a place on this trip, please complete this [form](#) to express an interest in this trip. Once the deposit has been paid and your child has a confirmed place on the trip, you will be sent a detailed questionnaire, which will help us find a suitable partner for them. The balance will be due in due course. Any money left over from the trip will be refunded once the exchange programme has been completed in June 2026.

Please note that the number of students for this trip is limited to 20 places, and this will be randomly selected.

Please also be aware that in order to comply with regulations set out by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate, we are required to obtain a DBS certificate with Barred List check for anyone over the age of 18 residing in the house at the time of the foreign exchange student's visit. By applying for a place on this exchange trip, you are agreeing to comply with this requirement.

If you have any queries about the visit, then please do not hesitate to contact me at school either by telephone (020 8266 1777) or email ([mbardou@habselstree.org.uk](mailto:mbardou@habselstree.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Bardou', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Bardou

Head of French