

TMR/tp  
18 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

In the Spring and Summer of this academic year, students who are learning German have the opportunity to take part in the German Exchange with a school near Stuttgart, in Germany, which has been running for over 38 years. Our students get to experience day-to-day life in Germany and put their learning into practice. For the Students from the Ernst-Sigle Gymnasium in Kornwestheim, this is a very exciting opportunity and is always heavily oversubscribed.

In order to support our partner school, we are looking for students and families from the Wildern community to support us in hosting a German student in July 2024. The German students will visit Hedge End from **Sunday 7 July to Wednesday 17 July 2024.**

This will be a unique and great opportunity for your child to build a relationship with a student from another country and make a friendship that could last for years. When the German group visits England, there will be organised excursions for the German students on each school day. English students will carry on attending school as normal. At the weekend, there is a chance to show your exchange student the local area, or get together with other families with exchange students and do something together.

### **Safeguarding checks for host families**

The Department of Education advises that where children are staying with host families, this is classed as a 'regulated activity' and, as such, all adults must undergo a 'DBS Children's Barred List' register check. Recently, Hampshire County council has instructed all its schools that this procedure must be followed.

In order to take part in the exchange programme that involves hosting a German youngster, you will need to agree to a safeguarding check. Once your application to take part in the exchange has been received, further details will be sent to you about the checking procedure. To support the expenses incurred, German students will contribute £100 towards their stay, as they are not hosting a student in Germany.

If you are interested in taking part in this great opportunity, please fill out the [GoogleForm here](#), and I will be in touch in due course with further information. If you would like to discuss this opportunity further with me, please email the school at [wildern@wildern.org](mailto:wildern@wildern.org) or phone 01489 783473.

Many thanks in advance on behalf of our partner school for any support you can give.

Yours sincerely

**Mr T Russell**  
Director of Learning - MFL