



25 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

German Exchange to Immenstadt 2025-26 – current Years 8/9/10

Thank you for your interest in the 2025-26 German Exchange. The trip will take place from Friday 14 February until Sunday 22 February 2026 during the half-term holidays.

The trip will take us to Immenstadt which lies in the Allgäu region of the German Alps, where we will be staying with host families. We will be visiting a German school. During the first weekend Castle students will spend time with their host families, normally participating in local events and activities. The carnival week (or Fasching) will be taking place during the trip, the highlight is the Rosenmontag procession in the town of Immenstadt.

This trip incorporates skiing for 3 or 4 full days, and for a mid-week break we will also be offering a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle and shopping in Kempten. Last year we also included a trip to Munich and the Allianz arena.

The details are as follows:

- English youth depart Taunton Friday 14 February 2026 from BTC layby (time TBC)
- Arrive in Immenstadt: Saturday 15 February, return home Sunday 22 February 2026
- German youth in Taunton: Friday 12 September until Saturday 20 September 2025
- Travel by: To be confirmed at a later date, usually Berrys Coaches and ferry from Dover to Calais.
- Total cost: £749.00, but could change depending on number of participants and exchange rate.
The Castle School seeks to make no profit.

The above price includes:

- All travel including Coach and Ferry.
- Full comprehensive insurance.
- At least 3 days of skiing in the Immenstadt region.
- Ski hire and passes.
- Entry into places of interest.

The price is very reasonable (as a ski trip) due to the fact that students will be accommodated in host German families, who will also provide breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches throughout the trip. This would be on a reciprocal basis for the German students who would be hosted by English families in Taunton in September 2025. We have kept the cost at 2023-2024 price, as long as we reach our target of 25 students.

Whilst in Germany, students will not be under teacher supervision at all times, but there will be a contact number which they can ring at any time. We will meet before the trip to discuss safety and expectations, and to give you, the parents/carers the opportunity to ask any questions and to meet the trip escorts.

German incoming visit - The exchange is on a reciprocal basis.

The German group will arrive in Somerset in September 2025 (the first week of the new term). The German students will have a weekday programme arranged for them, visiting parts of Somerset and Devon during the day. The English families only need to entertain their guests over the first weekend and often join forces. Each weekday morning the German guest will be collected from school for the day's outing and will be returned at the end of the afternoon. They will spend some time in lessons too, to establish the difference between English and German education systems.

Please note that due to new regulations on Child Protection, The Castle School host families will need to have a DBS check undertaken (formerly CRB), for anyone over 16.

Pairings will be confirmed before the end of the Summer Term, and you will have time to email/write to your partners before their arrival.

The trip is limited to 25 places so if you would like your child to take part, please complete the permission slip attached and return to the Finance Office by the end of school on **Friday 28 February**. You will then receive confirmation of your child's place on Monday 3 March. Once confirmed you will be required to pay a **deposit of £200** per person by **Friday 8 March** to secure your child's place on the trip. It is important that this deadline is met so that transport and ski passes can be booked, and any price increases will be avoided. Please pay either via MCAS, by cash or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone). If you are currently receiving free school meals, please tick the box on the attached form as funds are available to cover the cost of the trip.

All students need to have a valid passport (valid for six months after date of return), GHIC health card and a visa if required (it is the parents'/carers' responsibility to obtain it).

Payment Schedules

First Deposit - £200.00 by 8 March (see above)
Second payment - £109.80 by end of April 2025
Third payment - £109.80 by end of June 2025
Fourth payment - £109.80 by end of August 2025
Fifth payment – £109.80 by end of October 2025
Final payment - £109.80 by end of November 2025

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or if you wish to discuss any details outlined in this letter. My school email address is cjones@castle.bep.ac if you have any queries. I will try to reply to you as soon as it's convenient.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Jones
MFL Department/German Exchange Leader
The Castle School

German Exchange Trip – Immenstadt – February 2026

Please return the slip to the Finance Office.

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the trip to Germany from Friday 14 February to Sunday 22 February 2026.

Student's name.....

Year group they will be in when trip commences.....

I am currently receiving Free School Meals

Parent/Carer's printed name.....

Signed..... Date.....

