

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís,
Nás na Rí,
Co. Chill Dara.



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Naas, September 18th 2019

Dear parents/guardians,

As you might have seen on our school website, TY students from CBS Naas and St. Mary's College Naas have the opportunity to take part in an exchange program with German schools.

We developed a very good relationship with two different schools in Germany. The 'Realschule Waltbreitbach' <http://realschule.dhs-waldbreitbach.de/>, which is situated between Bonn and Koblenz in Germany and the 'Gymnasium Aulendorf' <http://www.gymnasium-aulendorf.de/gymaul/index.php/aktuelles>, which is in the Southwest of Germany, near the lake Constance. Like most of the schools in Germany both schools are mixed schools.

Since 2016 boys from CBS Naas and girls from St. Mary's College have been travelling together with their teachers to Waldbreitbach and Aulendorf. The pupils stayed with host families and went to school in the morning and back home with their partners in the afternoon to be immersed in German everyday life. We took part in excursions to Cologne, Koblenz, Ulm and Bregenz in Austria. As we are travelling during Christmas season, there will be plenty of Christmas markets to go to and with a bit of luck there will be snow.

Every year in April/May the German exchange students come to Ireland and spend time with their host families in Naas. Usually we go to Croke Park and the centre of Dublin and Brittas Bay to do some water sports together. But this is open to debate.

As I'm sure you will agree, the best way to learn a language is to immerse yourself in that country. We believe this exchange is the perfect opportunity to do that. The exchange for the year 2019–2020 will take part with Aulendorf again. Aulendorf is a small town and in 2017 many of the students socialised together as a big German/Irish group after school. They had a truly authentic experience, made many friends and most were very sad to leave at the end of the week

We offer your son the opportunity to take part in the exchange for the school year 2019–2020. As in previous years we hope to travel for one week in December during the school term so that we can avail of cheap flights. It is **estimated** that the overall cost for transport

to and from airports, flights and day trips will be **about €350**. The first payment of ca. € 100 - € 150 will be towards the middle of October to secure flights. The rest of the payments can be spaced out until the time we leave.

Your son will live with a host family for the duration of the visit in Aulendorf and when the German group comes over for their exchange trip to Ireland, each boy travelling to Germany is expected to host his exchange pupil. The exchange partner will go to school with your son and home in the evening. We will also organise two day trips to Dublin and maybe Glendalough, Brittas Bay, etc. For this there might be additional costs of about €50 in April 2020. This year there is a great number of German students interested in the exchange, therefore we still have a few places left to be filled. As there is a lot of planning involved I would appreciate if any families interested in getting involved in this exchange would contact me **by Thursday September 26th**.

Kind regards

Margit Lonergan

German Department Naas CBS

I _____ (parent/guardian) grant my son _____ permission to take part in a school exchange to Germany in December 2019. In return I agree to host a German student in April or May 2020.

Signature: _____

Date: _____