

<b>Belgium</b> Athenée des Pagodes	<b>Germany</b> Pestalozzi Gymnasium	<b>Italy</b> I.T.C.G. P. Calamandrei	<b>Spain</b> Colegio Los Olivos	<b>Sweden</b> Blackebergs Gymnasium
Brussels	Herne	Sesto Fiorentino	Malaga	Stockholm

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St Michael's Catholic Grammar School  
Christ's College, Finchley  
Finchley Catholic High  
Woodhouse College  
St. Ignatius College

September 2016

Dear Student,

St. Michael's School, Christ's College, St. Ignatius College, Woodhouse College and Finchley Catholic High are jointly offering students in the first year of the Sixth Form the exciting opportunity of spending time abroad which includes one week on work experience. This year work experience placements will be available in Brussels, Stockholm, Herne (Germany), Malaga (Spain) and Sesto Fiorentino (Italy).

This opportunity is aimed at Y12 students studying an AS language in French, German, Italian or Spanish. You must be prepared to speak in the language of the host country and not assume everyone will speak English. This applies in workplaces and in the family setting. However, this is not exclusively a linguistic experience and we give the opportunity to non-linguists to participate, in fact there are no language requirements for students going to Sweden as English is widely spoken by nearly all people.

The North London schools are linked with Athénée des Pagodes in Brussels, Blackebergs Gymnasium in Stockholm, Pestalozzi Gymnasium in Herne, Colegio Los Olivos in Spain and Istituto Tecnico Piero Calamandrei in Sesto Fiorentino. The link is for an exchange of students, an opportunity to do some work experience and also curriculum developments between the schools. Belgian, German, Swedish, Italian and Spanish students are being offered the opportunity to spend time doing exactly the same in London.

There are a number of places available on each of the exchanges for students from all the schools involved. Each student will be linked with the Belgian/French/German/Swedish/Italian/Spanish student for the purposes of accommodation. It is a requirement for selection that you are able to accommodate a student in your own home. It is not always possible to match students of the same gender although every effort is made to do so according to home circumstances. **You are required to arrange a suitable work placement for your partner here in London. Advice on this will be given by your school coordinator. This placement must be finalised as soon as you are matched with your partner, usually in mid November.**

Students must pay for fares, insurance and day to day living costs incurred away from the host family. The figures below are approximate and based on previous years.

Brussels	£240
Herne	£330
Stockholm	£370 (this includes a travel pass for all travel in Sweden)
Malaga	£330
Sesto Fiorentino	£330

These figures exclude general expenses that you may have e.g. entertainment and travel costs in the country and for which each student is responsible.

Students must be aware that requests for specific work placements are often very difficult to meet but every effort is made to meet your requests. A great deal of compromise is necessary and you should see the visit not solely in terms of the work placement but in a wider context of living and working in another country. It is not a holiday!

If you choose to apply you must complete an application form. You can request more than one country but state a preference. Should there be more applicants than places then selection will be by each school. Please be as detailed and as clear as you can when filling in the form **electronically** which is available on the St. Michael's website: [http://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/Curriculum>European Work Experience](http://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/Curriculum/European%20Work%20Experience). A photo must be included on the form. Return your **printed** form to your co-ordinator at your own school together with a photocopy of your passport (even if expired at the time of applying) and photocopy of your EHIC card by **September the 15<sup>th</sup>**. Selection for the project demands a great deal of commitment from those chosen. If you apply to participate you are required to pay a deposit of **£150.00** with your **application** and **photocopies**. This is non-returnable in the event of you withdrawing from the exchange without a replacement. The balance is payable by **November 24<sup>th</sup>** and your own school coordinator will inform you as to how and to whom you should pay your deposit and balance.

As part of the preparation for the exchange you will be required to attend 2 after school meetings so that you can discuss the scheme, meet accompanying staff and students from the other schools. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm** at St Michael's Catholic Grammar School in the Hall. Please make a note of this in your diary, as it is a compulsory meeting for all parents and students involved! The pre-departure meeting is only for students and approx. one week before departure.

**Once you have applied it must be clearly understood that you are then committed to the scheme if selected. Withdrawal for any reason will cause extreme complications to employers and our partner schools and is something that we do not want to happen. Deposits are non-refundable.**

The Belgian, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish students will be completing their placements in London in January, February, March 2016. You will be going on your placement to your country of choice in March 2016, with the exception of Sweden (February half term 2016).

**Provisional Dates:**

The dates are extremely provisional and will be confirmed later in the term. Please remember these are only approximate dates and could change.

**German Students in London:**

January 22<sup>th</sup> until January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Belgian Students in London:**

January 22<sup>th</sup> until January 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Swedish Students in London:**

February 25<sup>th</sup> until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (during their half term)

**Spanish students in London:**

4<sup>th</sup> March until 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Italian students in London:**

4<sup>th</sup> March until 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**London students in Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain**

11<sup>th</sup> March until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**London students in Sweden**

13<sup>th</sup> February until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (during our half term)

This exchange has been running for twenty years and so far over 1000 students from the North London schools have participated in the scheme. All students should seriously consider applying for a place. It will broaden your horizons and provide a unique opportunity to learn about life in another country.

Yours sincerely

**Elisa Scarato**  
**Project Co-ordinator**