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Dear Parent or Carer

Partnership with Collège Les Coudriers, France

I am writing to inform you about an exciting new partnership that Framwellgate School Durham has established: we have linked up with Le Collège Les Coudriers, near Amiens in France, which is Durham's twin city.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the school and met some of the educational leaders in Amiens. Framwellgate School Durham was among six schools from County Durham who have committed to a programme of cultural exchange. The Mayor of Durham travelled with us and was keen to support any activities that ensure that our cultural heritage and friendships remain strong in the years to come. Planning for activities this year is well underway and all students who study languages will be involved in some way.

The first activity is to ask our Year 7 and Year 8 students to record a short video, in which they introduce themselves in French, say what they like/dislike and if they wish, ask a question. The videos can be sent to their class teacher via the school email system and will be stored in a password -protected network folder. Our French counterparts are doing the same (in English) and we will use their videos in class. If you do not want your child to make a video, there is no obligation to do so (some of our French partners are writing a postcard instead).

Teachers will provide students with a model script for the videos and ask students to make a note in their planners, as we would like to share our videos soon after half-term. Our Year 9 and Year 10 students will soon receive a questionnaire from France, asking about Remembrance Day activities and we will be sending our partners in France examples of the work we do on the 11th November on this theme. It is also hoped that some students will be invited to travel to France next Spring to meet the students and spend time in their school and town.

I hope that you agree that such a partnership can reap many rewards, and I am sure your children will want to discuss it with you. We firmly believe that sharing meaningful exchanges with native speakers is one of the best ways to encourage linguistic development and an appreciation of cultural differences as well as a wonderful opportunity to make lasting friendships.

Thank you for your support.

Dawn Hale
Curriculum Leader Modern Languages