

7 June 2017

EA/JB

Dear Parents and Students

Exchange to Spain 2017/2018

Our annual Spanish Exchange visit to "Escola Gem", a school in Mataró near Barcelona, is now well and truly established and, after having just completed another successful trip here and there, I am happily in a position to be able to launch the Spanish Exchange for the academic year 2017/2018. Given the popularity and the success of the Exchange in previous years, last year we decided to open it up to students in the current Years 9-12 who are studying Spanish, and we are going to do the same this year.

The Exchange goes to a town called Mataró, close to Barcelona, and we are planning our outward visit for between **13 or 14 October until 20 or 21 October 2017**. These dates are dependent on flight availability and pricing and I will confirm as soon as I am able.

I would hope that we can run the exchange on a maximum of £370, dependant on a minimum interest of 30 students. The cost will include all travel by air and coach in the UK, excursions, entrance fees and insurance. Food and lodging will obviously be provided by the host family.

There is, of course, a requirement that those taking part in the visit to Spain will act as hosts in return. For those studying Spanish, the experience of staying with a family and trying to speak a second language is particularly valuable. When we pair students up with their Spanish counterparts, we take into account the levels of Spanish and English of both participating students, in order that communication can take place, so please don't worry about this!

I should add that participation is also dependent upon a good attitude towards work, and **we reserve the right to withdraw students who are not meeting the required standard.**

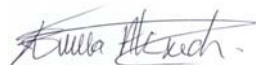
Our Exchanges to date have been very successful and have been enjoyed by everyone involved. Last year, students' listening and spoken skills improved at GCSE and A Level. Taking part in the Exchange enables GCSE students to talk and write about their personal experiences in Controlled Assessments, as well as improving their listening skills. It also enables A Level students to do this as well as to experience Spanish family life, Spanish youngsters' thoughts and beliefs, and also to gain an invaluable insight into Catalonia, which is one of the regions we study at A Level. I would hope that all students would seriously consider this opportunity as an important addition to their course.

In order to secure the best possible price for the flights as quickly as possible I need to ask for an **initial deposit of £150 by Monday 3 July 2017**. This will be non-refundable as soon as the flights have been booked. A second interim payment of **£120** will be due by **6 September**, with the remaining **£100** due by **2 October**. Payment should be made via ParentPay.

All students on the visit must have their own passport and I will need to have a copy of this in order to book the flights. **Please hand in your reply slip, a photocopy of your passport information and the completed Exchange application form to the Main Office.** Once received, the trip will appear on your ParentPay account to enable payment to be made by 3 July.

I appreciate that you may have questions that you would like to ask, if so please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully



Emma Albuixech
Head of Languages

**Spanish Exchange Visit 2017/2018
CONSENT FORM
(Please return in an envelope to the Main Office)**

Student's Name: **Form:**

I / We give my/our consent for my/our son/daughter named above to participate in this visit as outlined in the attached letter.

(Both parents with parental responsibility should give their signed consent for foreign visits. Please note that where parents are separated both parents with parental responsibility are still required to give their consent to participation in foreign visits unless the main carer has been designated by a Residency Order.)

I wish to register my son/daughter for a place on this visit and agree to pay £150 deposit by 3 July 2017.

Email address for account notification:

I am aware that further contributions will be due as follows and that payments by instalments will be accepted in the interim:

6 September £120 Second Payment

2 October £100 (Final Balance will be due by this date)

*ParentPay allows parents/carers to pay with a debit or credit card. Please tick the box above and return the form to school to register your application for a place on this visit. Once the trip is deemed viable, Mrs Green (Finance Office) will then activate a ParentPay account for you for this visit. **Your deposit online will be due by 3 July 2017.***

Signed: **Main Carer:** YES / NO / JOINT

Print Name: **Relationship to student:**

Signed: **Main Carer:** YES / NO / JOINT

Print Name: **Relationship to student:**

Please also enclose a photocopy of your son's/ daughter's passport details and the completed Exchange Application form