



# Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School  
A National Teaching School

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Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

## Spanish Exchange 2017/18

I am delighted to be writing to you with details of next year's proposed exchange to Spain. Following a fifth very successful visit to our Exchange link school, we are once again offering our students the opportunity to visit the beautiful historic city of Salamanca, to exchange with students at Colegio Calasanz Escolapios. They look forward to visiting Backwell and welcoming our students during the next school year.

The provisional dates for the incoming visit are from **Friday, 6 October to Sunday, 15 October 2017**. During that week the Spanish students will spend at least one day in school with the Backwell students and otherwise participate in a variety of trips to places of local interest.

The provisional dates for the return visit to Spain are from **Friday, 26 January to Sunday, 4 February 2018**, when students will attend school with their exchange partners in Spain and participate in a number of excursions to nearby places of interest (which will be dependent on flight prices and exchange rates). Possibilities include a trip to Madrid, a visit to the medieval town La Alberca, a day skiing in a local ski resort, including lessons, which is weather dependent, as well as spending time in the local region of Salamanca.

The exchange is being offered to students of Spanish who will be in Years 10, 11 and 12 during the next academic year. It provides a great opportunity to encounter both language and culture at first hand, to make new friends and develop self-confidence.

Colegio Calasanz Escolapios is a part-boarding school, so some students may be matched with boarders. If they are, they will spend the weekends with their host family and not at the school.

The cost will be no more than £350, and possibly a little less, depending on the price of the air tickets we manage to obtain and the number of students interested in taking part and fluctuations in the exchange rate.

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I should be grateful if you would indicate your willingness for your son/daughter to participate in this exchange by completing the tear-off slip below and returning it to the Modern Languages Department **by Thursday, 25 May. Please write your son/daughter's passport number and full name as it appears on his/her passport.**

On receipt of the reply slip, we will issue your son/daughter with a student profile form, which should be completed and returned to us as soon as possible, to enable us to match him/her to a Spanish student and give them an opportunity to make initial contact with each other.

There is a limit on the number of students who can take part, so early application is essential in order to gain a place. Once they have been matched with a student in Spain and therefore allocated a place, payments should be made via [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) the school's online cashless payment system. The instalments will include three initial payments in order for us to obtain the air tickets and are, therefore, non-refundable. The instalments will be due as follows:

Monday, 19 June 2017	Non-refundable deposit	£75
Monday, 17 July 2017	Non-refundable deposit	£75
Monday, 11 September 2017	Non-refundable deposit	£50
Monday, 9 October 2017		£50
Monday, 6 November 2017		£50
Monday, 4 December 2017	Final payment	£50

Please remember that your son/daughter will need a passport for travel next January, valid for up to six months from the date of his/her return. He/She will also require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for health insurance purposes. Cards are free and available by phone (EHIC Applications Line 0845 606 2030), via the website ([www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk)) or by post (application pack from the Post Office).

Once arrangements are finalised for the incoming visit, we will invite you to a short evening meeting in September to discuss details of the incoming leg of the exchange. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

N Maguire  
Head of Spanish

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**Please return to Miss Maguire in the Modern Languages Department by Thursday, 25 May.**

NAME OF STUDENT (as it appears on his/her passport): \_\_\_\_\_

TUTOR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_ PASSPORT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am willing for my son/daughter to participate in the proposed exchange trip to Spain next January/February and to host a visiting Spanish student in October.
- I am willing for my son/daughter to be matched with a **boy / girl / either** (*Please circle as appropriate*).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Carer