



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

Station Road, Backwell,
Bristol BS48 3BX
Tel: 01275 463371
mailbox@backwellschool.net
www.backwellschool.net

Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Spanish Exchange 2019/20

I am delighted to be writing to you with details of next year's proposed Exchange to Spain. Following a seventh 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, 4 October to Sunday, 13 October 2019**. 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, 24 January to Sunday, 2 February 2020**, when students will attend school with their exchange partner in Spain and participate in a number of excursions to nearby places of interest (which will depend on flight prices and exchange rates). Possibilities include a trip to Madrid, a visit to the medieval town of La Alberca, and 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, and 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 their weekends with their host family and not at the school.

The cost will be no more than £375, 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.

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 Friday, 24 May. **Please write your son/daughter's passport number and full name as it appears on his/her passport.**

Once your son/daughter has been offered a place, we will issue them 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.

.../cont

There is a limit to 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, payment should be made via www.parentpay.com the school's online cashless payment system. If you have any problems accessing the service or you wish to discuss payments or financial difficulties, please contact the Finance Team on 01275 465941.

The instalments will be due as follows:

Monday 17 June 2019	Non-refundable deposit	£100
Monday 15 July 2019	Non-refundable deposit	£100
Monday 9 September 2019		£75
Monday 7 October 2019		£50
Monday 4 November 2019		£50

Please bear in mind that we will be reserving flights in July. The first two instalments will be used to pay for air tickets and are therefore non-refundable. If payments are not made by the due dates, then we will be unable to reserve a flight for your child.

Please remember your son/daughter will need a passport for travel next January, valid for up to six months from the date of their 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) or by post (application pack from the Post Office).

Due to a recent change in Government policy, we are now expected to obtain up to date DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificates for all parents who are perceived to be in 'regulated' activity and this includes host families in foreign exchanges. Once we have the list of students who are partaking in the Spanish Exchange, we will send full details about how to complete the forms and provide Backwell with the correct identification.

Once arrangements are finalised for the incoming visit, we will arrange 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

.....
Please return to Miss Maguire in the Modern Languages Department by Friday, 24 May.

NAME OF STUDENT (as it appears on his/her passport) _____

TUTOR GROUP: _____ PASSPORT No. _____

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