



December 2018

Dear parent,

Each year the second year class group have the possibility of travelling to Spain on a language learning trip at the end of the school year.

This year we are linking up with a school La Malvesia which is near Valencia. The boys will stay with Spanish families while there. A group of Spanish boys from La Malvesia will come to Rockbrook in May, and these boys will be hosted by school families, including second-year families of boys wishing to go to Spain. The trip is therefore a loose 'exchange'. Some Irish families may not be in a position to host a boy, whereas others could possibly host two boys if required. By hosting a Spanish boy, the trip to Spain is consequently less expensive.

Attached you will find

- (a) Outline details on the trip to Spain in June 2019
- (b) Details on hosting requirements for the Spanish group coming here for two weeks from approx. 5-19 May 2019
- (c) A form for completion and returning **by January 9** if you wish your son to travel. All second year students are requested to return the form, even if they are not hosting or do not intend to travel. (Deposits should be paid with the form.)

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Mark Hamilton**  
Principal

## SPAIN TRIP – OUTLINE DETAILS

**Outline Plan:** depart 2 June & return 16 June 2019 (provisional dates).

Boys to meet at the airport and to be collected from airport on return. Details will be provided regarding baggage requirements etc. at a later stage.

**Accommodation** is with hosting families near Valencia. Hosting families are allocated on the day of travel unless there is a direct exchange

**Daily plan** will include daily Spanish classes (approx. 3 hours of language class daily) ongoing interaction with boys at La Malvesia (sports, outings) and some local cultural trips.

**Cost** will be **€560 for those hosting a Spanish student in May**. This price includes air fares, accommodation, travel insurance, food, local transport and entrances. The price for those unable to host a student will be €340 more (i.e. a total of **€900**) as this is the cost of hosting a Spanish student on their leg of the trip. Recommended pocket money: €140 maximum (as all expenses are included).

### Payment dates

Non-refundable\* deposit of €160 by 9 January 2019 (This deposit only becomes non-refundable when the flights are booked)

Second installment (€250 hosting/ €470 non-hosting) by 1 April 2019

Balance (€150, or €270 if not hosting a student) by 11 May 2019

(If for some good reason a person is unable to travel the second and third payments (less approx. €50) are refundable)

The Spanish boys will be here from approx. 5 to 19 May, will stay with Irish families and will follow a schedule of activities and trips each day. Further details will be provided to hosting families around mid-February.

All second year families are asked to please return the attached expression of interest form, whether your son is going or not. **For those boys wishing to go a deposit of €160 is due by 9 January, 2019. Flights will be booked in January. If your son will not be going and you only wish to host a student please mark this on the form.**

### Please note

Travelling on a school trip requires that the leaders in charge take responsibility for all students in their care. Young people must have sufficient maturity to take and follow instructions and to look after their own belongings. Teachers also must have a high degree of certainty that those in their care will respond positively to commands given and not get involved in unruly or ill-advised behaviour. Students wishing to go on school trips must seek permission and receive permission from the school management. Poor behaviour in the school, especially around issues of respect for teachers and fellow students and responsiveness to school rules, or if it is consistent poor behaviour, may lead to a student not being eligible for a school trip.

It is unusual for a student to be prohibited from attending a school trip. However, there may be an upper limit on the number of students who can travel and good behaviour and good results will pay a part in selection. Also, payment of a deposit does not guarantee that a student will be allowed participate, should his behaviour not meet the standard required by school management.

(see overleaf for Hosting details)

## HOSTING SPANISH STUDENTS

We are now looking for families to commit to hosting boys from the Spanish group who will be here from (approx) **5 to 19 May, 2019**. This hosting opportunity is also open to families whose sons may not be travelling to Spain in June.

A Spanish student staying in your house will normally travel with your son each day to and from school. You provide him with a packed lunch. He will be involved in activities during the school day and will return home with your son after school. It would be good for you as a family to take him out on a couple of evenings during his stay. You should also use the opportunity of his stay to help improve your son's oral Spanish.

Normal regulations regarding hosting students apply (e.g. he should join in the family meal, you set strict regulations about times to be in the house, about not being around the street without your son's presence, limited or controlled access to house phone, TV, internet etc.). Note that many of the boys come from Catholic families and most parents want them to benefit from a good moral climate, so don't be slow to remind them of standards should that be required. The Spanish students may have a manageable level of English.

Payment for hosting is €170 per student per week. This is deducted from the Spanish trip fee if your son is travelling to Spain in June. Otherwise a cheque will issue in the latter half of May.

### TRAVELLING TO SPAIN

In response to the letter regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Spanish trip,

I wish to confirm that my son: \_\_\_\_\_ **wishes to go** on the Spanish trip.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** I wish to confirm that my son: \_\_\_\_\_ **will not go** on the trip.

#### Complete details below (if going)

Name (as it appears on his passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Passport expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

#### ATTACH PHOTOCOPY OF PASSPORT PAGE.

If the passport will expire before the return from this trip, please take steps now to ensure that a new passport is ordered, and ensure that the name on it is the name given above. If the passport is being changed it is important that you record that information here as flights may be booked using the passport numbers and thus flight tickets may be invalidated.

My son's passport is being changed / renewed in (state when) \_\_\_\_\_ and I expect to have updated passport details by \_\_\_\_\_ (state when).

**I will forward a non-refundable deposit of €160 by 9 January. I will pay the second installment by 1 April (€250 hosting / €470 if not hosting) and the final installment (€150 hosting / €270 if not hosting) by 11 May.**

I enclose a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### HOSTING SPANISH STUDENTS

In regard to hosting students in the exchange please tick all relevant boxes.

I confirm that we will

- definitely** will be able to host a Spanish student for 14 days (5-19 May 2019)
- if required (due to a shortage of host families) **could host a second student**
- will **probably be able** to host a Spanish student for 14 days (5-19 May)
- definitely **will not be able** to host a Spanish student from 5-19 May.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this Form to the school secretary by 9 January 2019.**