

September 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian

**YEAR 12 SALAMANCA TRIP Sunday 23 February – Friday 28 February 2020**

I am delighted to be able to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to take part in an intensive language course in Spain in February 2020. This trip is intended to offer extra assistance to those taking A level exams in Spanish. Since June 2000, we have developed a close association with an excellent language academy in Salamanca called ISLA. They are able to offer a tailor made course for our students taught by Spanish teachers. Classes will run for 5 days with 4 hours tuition per day.

The trip will be over 6 days in total from Sunday 23 February to Friday 28 February 2020. Students will stay with Spanish host families on a full-board basis of breakfast, cooked lunch and evening meal. There is no return aspect of this trip, i.e. you will not need to host a Spanish student later in the year. Travel will be by coach and by plane.

In addition to the time spent studying, there will be a fantastic range of inclusive organised activities. These include activities such as a salsa dance class, a tapas tour, a paella experience, a visit to the cinema, a cultural exploration of the old cathedral and the tower in Salamanca and a guided talk around the region's principal bullfighting museum. Salamanca itself is a beautiful town famous for its ancient university and cathedral. The central area is fully pedestrianized and all accommodation is within 20 minutes walking distance of ISLA and the town centre. Students will be given limited free time within clearly defined areas of the town centre.

The cost of this trip will depend on numbers participating. Given ongoing uncertainty around exchange rates, we anticipate the cost to be in the range £620.00 to £685.00 to include all flights, transfers, accommodation, food, tuition fees, course materials, activities and graduation certificate. Students should note that this is an educational visit, which takes place in school time. They are expected to participate fully in the educational provision on offer and to comport themselves to the highest standards at all times.

If you would like your son/daughter to go on the trip, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £200.00 by **9:00 on Monday 30 September 2019** on ParentPay. Please contact Mrs Holey in the Finance Office at St Aidan's if you do not have your log on details ([h.holey@staidans.co.uk](mailto:h.holey@staidans.co.uk)). The next payments will be due in December 2019 and January 2020. Further details will be sent out in due course.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online you are agreeing to your son/daughter taking part on the trip and the cost and confirming that their medical details, which we hold at school, are up to date. Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to book your son/daughter's flights and make regular payments to the Language School. I would be grateful therefore if you could discuss this opportunity with your son/daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.

**Important Information**

Please note that all payments for this trip are non-refundable, as we have to make regular payments to the Language School and book flights for your son/daughter.

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Monday 30 September 2019, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your son/daughter withdraws**, unless together we can find a replacement student. **For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that as a family you are all fully committed to the trip as this is a significant undertaking.**

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at the Associated Sixth Form. When accompanying students on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that students are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip, the school staff have to be confident that a student will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Once the deadline of Monday 30 September 2019 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each student and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and deposits in this case will be refunded.

Once a student has been accepted onto a trip if, in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, there are concerns again about the student's participation on the trip we **reserve the right to withdraw the student's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator on 01423 818527.

Regards

Miss Phillpotts  
Languages Department