



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 10 Trip to Salamanca, Sunday 25 June – Friday 30 June 2023

Following the success of our previous visits to Salamanca in Spain, I am delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to study at a renowned Spanish Language School. Not only is this trip intended to offer extra assistance to those taking the GCSE exam in June 2024, but it also offers children the opportunity to experience Spanish culture firsthand.

We have developed a close association with the Director of an excellent language academy in Salamanca, and students will have intensive classes taught by talented and inspiring native speakers. Classes will run for 4 days with up to 5 hours tuition per day.

The trip will be from **Sunday 25 June to Friday 30 June 2023**. Students will stay together with staff in a youth hostel on a full board basis. 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 plane.

The cost of this trip will depend on numbers participating. Given the ongoing uncertainty around exchange rates, and flights, which have not yet been released, we anticipate the cost to be in the range £800.00-£990.00 to include all flights, transfers, accommodation, food, tuition fees, course materials, activities and graduation certificate. Please note that if the overall cost proves to be less than the price range above, **we will of course adjust your future instalments or refund if necessary**.

Salamanca itself is a beautiful town famous for its ancient university, cathedral, and stunning architecture. In addition to the time spent studying, there will be organised activities such as a tour of the city, a 'salsa' dance class, 'chocolate con churros', swimming, a 'tapas' tour and a photo competition. Students will also be allowed limited free time for relaxation and shopping in a full-pedestrianized area.

If you would like your child to go on the trip, please pay the **first non-refundable deposit of £200.00 by Friday 4 November 2022** on ParentPay. Please contact Mrs Holey in the Finance Office if you do not have your log on details (h.holey@staidans.co.uk). Additional instalment payments will then be due in February 2023 and April 2023. An updated price schedule will be sent out once we know the final numbers of students attending.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online you are agreeing to your child taking part on the trip and the cost and confirming that their medical details, which we hold at school, are up to date.

Important Information

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

Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Friday 4 November 2022, you will be required to **pay the full price of the trip if your child withdraws**, unless together we can find a



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replacement student. **For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your child 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.**

Behaviour

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that the success of previous trips to Salamanca has been due in part to the excellent conduct of our students. Those who take part in this visit must recognise that this is an educational visit and not a holiday. Students taking part are expected to complete the 20 hours of language tuition, do all work set and to fully participate in the cultural outings offered.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. When accompanying children 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 considering different routines and environments, which demand that students are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. 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 Friday 4 November 2022 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 child, 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 the Trips Administrator, Mrs McDonald, t.mcdonald@staidans.co.uk.

Regards

Mr M J Keating
Languages Department

Interim Headteacher: Mr D Thornton

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
Tel: 01423 885814 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk