



Heathfield School

Ascot

October 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Form III Trip to Barcelona

Following a number of very successful annual visits we are again proposing to take Form III to Barcelona from Thursday 10th March to Monday 14th March 2016. The staffing for the trip will be a very experienced team of teachers including myself, Mr Andrew Valner, Mrs Lesley Worrall and Form III Housemistress Miss Louise Champion.

We hope that this trip will encourage an appreciation of the country and culture of Spain. Furthermore the trip provides great cross-curricular opportunities and the Geography, MFL, Mathematics, Classics, RS and Art departments will be using it to explore aspects of their respective subjects.

As Spain is a topic within the Third Year Geography curriculum the trip will provide an excellent opportunity to study aspects of tourism and land use in Spain and will include a geography-based fieldwork day, a visit to a vineyard and to the fascinating landscape of the mountain of Montserrat under the leadership of Mrs Worrall. These visits provide a rich basis for further work on the girls' return to school.

Linking with their geographical study the girls will use and extend their mathematical skills to collect and analyse statistical information and will express this information through a variety of graphs.

The girls will use their visit to Gaudi's magnificent and awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia Cathedral to identify and explore the attributes of a place of worship as part of their RS GCSE course.

Barcelona has a rich cultural and artistic heritage and we will be particularly concentrating on the architectural works of Antoni Gaudi, visiting some of his most famous buildings and the fantastic Parc Guell. The girls will also bring their sketch pads and be encouraged to use them to record and explore the places they visit.

Those girls who study Spanish will be encouraged to focus on using the Spanish language more confidently, reinforcing basic sentence structures and developing a more active vocabulary in real life situations.

Mr Valner will use the trip to explore the rich Roman heritage in Barcelona through a visit to the Museum of the City where everyday aspects of life in Barcelona in Roman times are very well illustrated through a fascinating collection of artefacts.

We also consider the social aspects of this trip to be very important. Outside of a school environment the girls are encouraged to manage their own budget and given a degree of independence and responsibility appropriate to their age group. This is one of the aspects of the trip the girls most enjoy! As a guide girls generally bring something between 50 and 100 euros as pocket money.

During the trip we also have plenty of time for fun leisure time activities. On the Friday night we go to a bowling alley which is specially opened for us every year and where the girls thoroughly enjoy participating in a keenly contested competition between teams. The girls also have some time to investigate and explore Las Ramblas and on Saturday we visit Tibidabo, a mountain with spectacular views of the city and a fantastic old-style fun-fair.

Incorporating St Mary's School Wantage

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Travel will be by air on a scheduled British Airways flight from Heathrow and we will stay in a friendly family hotel in Calella, a small resort just north of Barcelona. The cost for the trip will be approximately £705 including scheduled flights, transfers, half-board accommodation, lunch allowance and entrance fees.

We would like every girl in Form III to attend the trip as it will provide them with an exciting taste of Spanish culture and life, enable them to develop more mature social skills outside of the school environment and in addition contributes to the girls' learning in a variety of subjects and forms the basis of study in Geography for the remainder of the Lent term.

Barcelona is a fascinating and vibrant city and, as you may know, I lived there for 20 years and I am looking forward to sharing my knowledge of this wonderful city with the girls.

In order for me to secure flights at their current rate and confirm our booking with the tour company I would like to ask you for a firm commitment and to complete and return the attached slip and parental consent form by Wednesday 7 October marked for the attention of Mrs A Diaz. If it is more convenient and you wish to confirm the booking by email please send your confirmation to the address below.

The non-refundable deposit of £350 will be added to the Lent term bill. The remaining balance will be charged to your account in the summer term.

I look forward to meeting many of you at Form III parents meeting in February when I have an opportunity to further discuss the trip with you and answer any of your questions. If in the mean time you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, either by email at adiaz@heathfieldschool.net or by phone on 01344 898314.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mrs Anita Diaz
Foreign Trips and Exchange Co-Ordinator