

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you regarding details of the Spanish department trip to Madrid in early March, and to inform you of a Parents Information Evening which I will be holding straight after half term. I also require passport information (number, start date, expiry date and country of issue) for your sons and daughters, which can be emailed to me at chamberlaint@ripongrammar.co.uk

We will depart from the **school bus park on Clotherholme Road by 6:30am** on the morning of **Friday 2nd March** by coach from Ripon Grammar School to Liverpool John Lennon airport, before catching an 11:25am flight (with Easyjet) to Madrid. Once in Madrid, we will take the Madrid metro to our hotel, which will be Hostal Madrid in the street called Calle Esparteros, very close to the Plaza Mayor and the Puerta del Sol. Pupils will be lodged in single-sex apartments with pupils of the same age group. On our return we will take a flight back to Liverpool, arriving at 17:10. I envisage us arriving back in Ripon Grammar School around **20:30 on Monday 5th March**.

During our visit, we will visit a range of sites of cultural and historical importance, including:

- The Museo del Prado (one of the world's great art museums)
- The Reina Sofia art museum (a short visit to this modern collection to see Picasso's Guernica)
- The Santiago Bernabeu stadium (home to the Real Madrid football team)
- El Escorial, the vast palace complex built by Felipe II in the hills outside Madrid

Although the trip will be short, we intend to hand over all of the in-country communication (finding the way, buying tickets, arranging meals and checking into accommodation, etc.) to the students, and they will also be encouraged to buy their own lunches. It is therefore hoped that this opportunity will increase the amount of Spanish that the students speak during the visit.

Evening meals will be arranged at a later date, but are likely to feature typical Spanish food on most or all nights. I would be very grateful if you can send me any dietary requirements as soon as possible, so that I can choose the best venues for meals.

Parents Information Meeting

I would like to hold a Parents Information Meeting on Tuesday 20th February at 18:30 in the Hall. This will last for about half an hour and will include all of the details about the trip, and will be a good opportunity for parents to hand over passport and EHIC cards securely, as well as to talk about any specific medical issues that we should be aware of.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I. T. Chamberlain

Head of Modern Foreign Languages and trip leader