

## LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Mrs J Marshall, Head of Spanish

### Spanish Exchange LOGROÑO – LANCASTER LRGS

September 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

#### **Spanish Exchange with Logroño 2019-2020** **Open to Year 10 and Lower Sixth Pupils**

#### **LRGS pupils go to Spain Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.** **Spanish pupils come to LRGS Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.**

LRGS is planning an exchange with IES Sagasta in Logroño, La Rioja, Spain. IES Sagasta is a mixed, state school based in the city centre of Logroño which is a small but friendly city in the heart of Spain's main wine producing region. If your son or daughter has expressed an interest in participating, we can assure you that their knowledge and enjoyment of Spanish could be greatly enriched through this opportunity.

***Purpose of the Exchange:*** The primary purpose is to improve language skills. Secondly, we hope pupils on both sides will find the exchange an opportunity to further develop their social skills, both as hosts and guests, and to have a greater understanding of and empathy with Spain's culture and people. Every effort is made to match pupils with a compatible partner, and to make the experience as enjoyable as possible. The Spanish students are all in 'Primer Bachillerato' (equivalent to Lower Sixth but a year younger) and have a good standard of English.

***Programme:*** We will travel to Logroño on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and return on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Students who participate in the Spanish Exchange will be expected to host the Spanish student they stay with on their visit to Lancaster, which will be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. Families must be fully committed to giving the level of hospitality which your son or daughter would hope to receive when s/he makes the trip to Spain. Boarders who would like to participate will need to make arrangements for their exchange partner to be hosted.

Furthermore, please note that **whilst you may have acted as a host family in the past, in order to ensure that all school visits comply with the government's new Safeguarding Regulations, UK host families will need to undergo a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check prior to the return visit of a student coming to stay in the family home.** This is required even if the parent/guardian already has a DBS clearance as this involves an overnight stay. The clearance is only valid for the period of the visit and, in addition to the DBS check on the lead member, also includes a police record check on the home address. We will need the full names and email addresses of anyone in the household over the age of 18. This is done online and you will be registered by Kate Roberts ( [kroberts@lrqs.org.uk](mailto:kroberts@lrqs.org.uk) ) please contact her for further information.

***Travel:*** Our travel agent is arranging flights from Manchester Airport to Bilbao. Pupils will require their own **valid British passport and a valid European Health Insurance Card.** Pupils will be transferred to and from the airports with reputable companies organised through LRGS and our Spanish partner school, respectively.

**Cost:** The price of this trip will be £350 to cover costs of travel, insurance and all excursions, but this cost is approximate until actual costs can be worked out more accurately. Any parent of a student who would like to take part but is experiencing financial difficulties can check information about bursaries on the school's website and apply to the opportunities fund. Please contact Ms J Cornell, Development Officer, for further details (jcornell@lrgs.org.uk). The trip is fully insured through the school insurance policy which is available to be viewed on the school website. In the event of an unforeseen situation causing the cancellation of the trip you may be liable for any costs we are unable to claim back from the insurance. The final balance will be due **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**.

**Excursions in Spain:** We plan to spend a day visiting San Millán de la Cogola, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and from there visit La Rioja's second city of Haro. We are also planning a day visit to Bilbao and Atapuerca. Whilst in Logroño we will be given a tour of a local bodega and there may be an opportunity to visit Bilbao and the famous Guggenheim museum on departure day as flights are late in the day. Excursions are still in the planning stages and are subject to change.

In the past few years there has also been opportunity to study topics relating to the GCSE and A Level curricula in context and we are hoping to arrange activities when in school to compliment key topic areas. The rest of our stay will either be spent with the family or at school attending lessons and workshops.

If, after discussing the exchange with your son/ daughter, you feel you would like him/ her to participate, please apply by paying a deposit of £100 via Wisepay by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. This deadline is crucial in order to book flights as soon as possible before prices rise. Priority places will be given to the Lower Sixth. We hope to have enough spaces to accommodate all pupils wanting to take part in the exchange but should we have more applicants than places, we will draw names from a hat.

We would ask you to pay a deposit of £100 via the school's Wisepay system. You might like to note that once flights have been booked, deposits will be non-refundable. You will receive an email confirming your child's place on the trip shortly after the closing date. In the event of your child not being awarded a place on the trip, your deposit will be refunded via Wisepay. All paperwork for the trip should go to Ms Pearson in Lee House or via email at lpearson@lrgs.org.uk.

**If your son/ daughter is interested in participating in the exchange please return the following to Ms Pearson by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September:**

- £100 deposit
- Medical information form (on Wisepay or available from Ms Pearson)
- DBS form attached with full names and email addresses of all persons in the household aged 18 or over.
- A copy of a valid passport and EHIC (if either is out of date or needing to be updated, please advise and your child will still be considered)

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or through e-mail.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. J. Marshall  
(Head of Spanish)