



Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Fax: 01722 325899

E-mail: admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.bws-school.org.uk

Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

24 February 2016

Dear Parents

MENORCA EXCHANGE – MEETING – Tuesday 15 March

There will be a meeting for all students and parents about the first and second phases of the exchange at **17:00 in the Sixth Form Common Room on Tuesday 15 March**. The meeting will last less than an hour, until 18:00 at the latest. This will be an opportunity to meet the trip leaders and other parents, bring questions about the trip and talk about how to make the most of the exchange. Since the Menorcans will come to the UK first, we will talk about their visit and schedule.

All the information for our trip (flights, phone numbers, pack list, etc.) is enclosed with this letter. We strongly recommend that you go through it carefully when preparing for our trip to Mahon.

By the time the above meeting takes place, all the boys should have received the matching form of their exchange partners in Menorca. The Menorcan student will make the initial contact with your son informally by e-mail. We have tried our best to find a partner who shares hobbies or interests with your son. Don't worry if this is not the case: where there is willingness to make friends, try new things and he will have a good time.

The boys should have started talking to their partners in Spanish through e-mail (or any other channel of their choice, e.g. Facebook, Facetime, Skype) to get to know them as thoroughly as possible before they travel to Menorca. They can also discuss arrangements for the exchange visit and practical details about everyday life so that they are able to get the maximum out of their stay.

There will be a number of lunchtime sessions in May in which we will teach the boys to deal with the language of exchange-specific everyday situations, including cultural aspects of which they need to be aware. They need to attend 100% of these sessions, which will take place on Thursdays 12.00-12.30 in W8 (Spanish Room). If your son is unable to attend all or any sessions, he must see me in advance.

I look forward to welcoming you to the meeting; please do get in touch if there is any other information that you need in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Torres
Spanish Department
jlt@bws.wilts.sch.uk

TRAVEL DETAILS for Menorca 2016:

DEPARTURE (Wednesday 15 June 2016):

Meet at **Boat House coach park** (next to the Central car park in Salisbury) at **6.30 am**, in order to load luggage and leave on time. The coach (Solent) will leave at **6:45 am**.

Easyjet: London Gatwick to Mahon

Depart Wednesday 15 June 12:50
Arrive Wednesday 15 June 16:10
Flight Number EZY 5203

We will be met at the airport by the Menorcan families and teachers and the boys will leave with them.

RETURN (Wednesday 22 June 2016):

The boys will be dropped off by the families at school and a coach will then take them to Mahon airport.

Easyjet: Mahon to London Gatwick

Depart 22 June 16:45
Arrive 22 June 18:05
Flight Number EZY 5204

The coach will pick us up and take us back to the **Boat House coach park**. The approximate arrival time in Salisbury is **21.30**, so you can plan ahead. Your son will phone you one hour before we arrive, please be there to collect him. He will call you too if there is a delay.

Contact:

You can contact your son on his mobile. If you like a challenge you can also try the family's landline (int. dial code: 0034+). Here are a few useful telephone phrases:

"Hola, ¿está (...)? ¿puedo hablar con él? "Soy la madre / el padre de (...)"

Your son can explain and practice these phrases with you. Make sure they have given you their full address and number before they go! It's on the matching form.

Mobile emergency numbers and Menorcan School Details

- **Mr J Torres** (trip organiser) 07887653368
BWS Reception during school hours (01722 333851)
Mr G Lloyd outside school hours (07957 932950 or 01747 821 951).
- **IES Cap de Llevant's** number and e-mail are (0034) 971353582 (they may be able to speak English) and cbritish@iescapdellelevant.org (Marta Hart is our Menorcan counterpart).

PROGRAMME for MENORCA 2016: 15th – 22nd June

Our number-one priority is for our boys to *experience* everyday life with their exchange partners and their families first-hand. When not involved in excursions, lessons or activities organized by us, students are encouraged to join in in whatever is happening, even if it is not something they would usually do.

Going to a football match, for a meal or a walk, cooking, playing table tennis, basketball or videogames, meeting their friends, tidying up the garden, watching the news or a soap opera, cinema (warning: no subtitles!)... If you are with them and you are using Spanish, you are doing it right! Show *interest* in what they do; everyone likes talking about what they love. They will be pleased and you will learn lots of things!

Your exchange partners will need some time to do their homework. You may have to catch-up work from BWS. Use this time to take care of that and to work on your Exchange Diary.

Please note that the programme below is simply meant to give an idea of the activities that usually take place during the week. We review the programme shortly before the trip to ensure that everything runs smoothly, so both the order and content may change.

WEDNESDAY 15th – Arrival and meeting the families

THURSDAY 16th – Lessons in the school

FRIDAY 17th – Lessons in the school

SATURDAY 18th – Day with the families

- *Afternoon: brief meeting with all our students by the sea front*

SUNDAY 19th – Day with the families

- *Some families may jointly organize a meal or get-together*

MONDAY 20th – Joint trip with exchange partners to the fortress ‘La Mola’

TUESDAY 21st – Hiking and afternoon exploring the coast

- *A group of Menorcan Y8 students have volunteered to be our guides!*

WEDNESDAY 22nd – Activities in town and departure

- *Morning: Bags to be left at the school*
- *Morning / Noon: Guided tour of the city and Town Trail*
- *A coach will pick us up at the school and take us to the airport in time for the 16:45 flight.*

PACKING CHECKLIST for Menorca 2016

DOCUMENTS

- In a small waist purse, “bum bag” (army surplus stores sell them):
 - **PASSPORT** (it must be up to date)
 - **EHIC card** (essential if you want to be reimbursed for medical treatment)

Your documents will be held in safe keeping by me during our stay in Spain. I recommend that you carry a photocopy in your bum bag.

- **EUROS** (in a wallet in the bum bag)

All trips, entry fees, activities and meals in Spain are included or provided by the family who is welcoming you. You will need Euros in Spain for drinks, snacks, presents for families (try to buy something nice – avoid causing your family a chocolate overdose!) and to buy your exchange partner an ice-cream! I suggest around 80-100€ and £30 pocket money.

FOOD

- A few snacks to keep you going at odd moments (Spanish mealtimes are very different).
- NO food or drink is provided on flights, you need to **bring lunch for the first day.**
- You will need to **buy something for dinner on the way back.**

LUGGAGE

- **Labels** on and inside all luggage please. Put your Spanish address as well as your home address. There is a **very strict** limit on luggage at check in: **20** kilos is the maximum weight you are allowed in your hold luggage; you will pay a hefty extra charge if you go over it! This does not include your hand luggage. Leave some spare kilos/room in case you bring something extra on the way back.

You can put heavy items in your hand luggage but they are also **very strict** with the size of the hand luggage: 56 cm long, 40 cm wide 25 cm deep. They will make you pay to check it in if it's any bigger than that, I know it by experience!

- Security measures apply at airports. **Do not pack** ANY liquids, gels or any sharp items (eg scissors) of any description in your hand luggage. Do bring a little **water** bottle but make sure you drink it **before** security. Liquids in your hand luggage will be confiscated and you will cause a **delay to the group.**

CLOTHES, TOILETRIES and MEDICINES (continues overleaf)

- **Clothes** – It should be very hot in June, so pack accordingly! However remember that you will be attending lessons and although students do not wear uniform, you should wear something appropriate (jeans, shorts, t-shirts are fine but flip-flops or tank tops are not!)
- Bring **toiletry** requirements: **sun block**, sun cream, sunglasses. Medicine: e.g. asthma inhaler, paracetamol, travel sickness pills (**in hand luggage**, take in advance), any medicines that you know we will need.

ESSENTIAL: baseball **cap** or **sunhat** for the walks, comfortable **walking shoes**. You will **not be allowed** in the walks if you do not have the proper gear! Bring **swimming trunks** as well, in case you need them.

OTHERS

- **A couple of pens and a little notebook** for your school days and your Exchange Scrapbook project. After our return you will have about two weeks to finalize your mini scrapbook and hand it in to your teacher. You will learn how to do this in the Exchange Club training sessions.
- **A present** for your host family, to say thank you for being so kind to host you.
- Please **do not bring expensive equipment** (video cameras, videogame consoles, netbooks, etc.) because:
 - 1) you will be busy all the time
 - 2) the aim of the trip is for you to talk to **people**, interact and socialize
 - 3) it might get broken or stolen: the insurance company does not pay out in cases of negligence and theft involves hours in a police station getting a statement.
- You are welcome to bring your mobile **phone** if it is usable in Spain (might have to phone your provider re roaming), but look after it – see above. **Camera?** Do bring one, but not a super expensive one, for the same reason.
- **Insurance:** please note that our school policy does not cover dangerous sports or unsupervised swimming. I have completed a special risk assessment for the cycle ride organized by the school.
- **Conditions of behaviour:** Boys, we are always very proud and impressed by our students' behaviour, and we would be very embarrassed to have to send anyone home. If there was serious misconduct, you would fly back home immediately, at your parents' expense. Needless to say that this has never yet been necessary. You all know how to be a good and polite guest. Remember that you are an ambassador for your family, school and country.

Finally...

Remember that we are going to Spain to LEARN. As enjoyable as it will be, it is not a holiday. You will learn about Spanish life and culture in a way you would never be able to with a textbook. You will get to know and form real friendships with Spanish people, hopefully lasting ones. Be open-minded and you will get a huge amount out of it, and do not underestimate what you do before the trip: the more you get to know your host family IN ADVANCE, the better your experience will be.