



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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8 May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

MENORCA EXCHANGE – MEETING – Wednesday 10 May

There will be a meeting for all students and parents about the exchange at **17:00 in the Sixth Form Common Room on Wednesday 10 May**. The meeting will last about 30-45 minutes, 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.

All the practical 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. Shortly before the above meeting takes place, all the boys should have received the matching form or e-mail address of their exchange partners in Menorca and the initial contact should have taken place. The boys should stay in touch with to their partners 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 and practice their Spanish. 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: the only essential requirement is to be willing to make new friends and take part in new experiences!

There will be a lunchtime session before the trip in which I will give the boys some tips to deal with the language of exchange-specific everyday situations, including cultural aspects of which they need to be aware. They will be informed of the time and place in due time and it must be attended.

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 faithfully

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

TRAVEL DETAILS for Menorca 2017:

DEPARTURE (Monday 12th June 2017):

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 prompt**.

Easyjet: London Gatwick to Mahon

Depart Monday 12th June 06:45am
Arrive Monday 12th June 16:10pm
Flight Number EZY 8303

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

RETURN (Monday 19th June 2017):

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 19 June 10:30am
Arrive 19 June 11:55am
Flight Number EZY 8302

The coach will pick us up and take us back to the **Boat House coach park**.
The approximate arrival time in Salisbury is 16:00pm.
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 2017: 12th – 19th 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 organised 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 work to catch-up with 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 structure and type of activities that usually take place during the week. We review and update the programme shortly before the trip to ensure that everything runs smoothly, so both the order and content may change.

MONDAY 12th – Arrival and meeting the families

TUESDAY 13th – Lessons in the school

WEDNESDAY 14th – Excursion 1 (Fortress ‘La Mola’)

THURSDAY 15th – Lessons in the school

FRIDAY 16th – Excursion 2 (Hiking and afternoon exploring the coast)

SATURDAY 17th – Day with the families

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

SUNDAY 18th – Day with the families

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

MONDAY 19th – Departure

PACKING CHECKLIST for Menorca 2017

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 **toiletries** and ****SUN BLOCK****, 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 socialise
 - 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 organised 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.