

14 November 2018

## **Spanish Exchange with Secondary School in Alcalá de Henares, (Madrid) in Spain**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Spanish Department of St. Oliver's Community College is planning to run a language exchange during the 2018/2019 academic year with our partner school in Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid. This is an exceptional opportunity to experience Spanish home and school life.

### **Who can apply?**

This exchange is open to all students studying Spanish in Fifth year and Transition Year. Our students will spend a week in IES Alcala Nahar from 11-16 March 2019 and the Spanish students will spend one week in Drogheda, from 6-11 April.

### **How does it work?**

For the exchange, students are assigned a Spanish exchange student who they will contact by email. While in Spain students will stay with this exchange student in their home. When the Spanish students come to Ireland, participating students must host their exchange student in their own home.

The Spanish students will go on organised trips and attend classes in St. Oliver's during the time that they are in Drogheda. Some evenings there will be organised activities for the visiting students with their Irish student, and there will be a group trip on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

When our students go to Spain they will be accompanied by several members of staff who will be available to them at all times and organise a full programme of activities, in our partner school and to places of interest in Madrid.

Both in Ireland and Spain students are integrated in family life and the exchange should represent a "home away from home". This integration in a family is the most effective way to improve language skills and understanding of the culture.

### **Selection Process**

The number of places is limited to 25 students. Students will be preselected based on their participation and enthusiasm for Spanish in class. Their record for diligence in regard to homework and behaviour will also be taken into account. Should the places be over-subscribed it may be necessary to operate a lottery system. If a student is not offered a place their deposit will be fully refunded.

Please note that the exchange student might be a boy or a girl and pairing is done based on likes and dislikes. You cannot choose one or the other.

### **Cost**

St. Oliver's Spanish Department has been fortunate to receive funding from the Department of Education under the Languages Connect Programme. This will allow students to participate in the exchange programme at a subsidised price. The total cost of the exchange per student will be in the region of €170, excluding pocket money (at parents' discretion). A non-refundable deposit of €100 must be paid before 21 November and the balance of approximately €70 before 1 February 2019. Please note that once a student has paid their deposit and their place has been confirmed we will book their flight and St. Oliver's has no way of refunding the cost.

If you are interested in your son/daughter taking part in the exchange, please complete the attached form. If your son/daughter is offered a place we will contact you via email with details of an information evening. At the Information evening we will give you guidelines on hosting your Spanish student, as well as details on your son's/daughter's trip to Spain.

Meanwhile, please ensure your son/daughter has a valid passport and a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Please note that all correspondence will be by e-mail. If this poses a problem, please let us know immediately.

Yours sincerely,

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Cora McDonnell

Coordinator of Student Exchange

# Application Form for Student Exchange

## 2018-2019

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for a place on the Student Exchange Programme to Spain during the 2018-2019 school year. I understand that I will be staying in my exchange partner's home and that when they come to Ireland I will host them in my home.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(this will be used for correspondence)

Parent/Guardian Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my son/daughter to apply for a place on the Student Exchange Programme.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_