



8 October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Food lovers trip to Barcelona – Wednesday 10 July – Saturday 13 July 2019 inc.

I would like to offer your son or daughter the opportunity to take part in an exciting culinary trip to Barcelona. This trip is available to all Food GCSE students or those who have an interest in Food as a GCSE option next year. This trip aims to broaden students' cultural, sporting and culinary awareness of Barcelona. We will be working with Halsbury Travel, who specialise in Food educational trips abroad and are a recognised operator by Essex LEA. This is an exciting opportunity for students who have displayed an interest in improving their knowledge and awareness of Barcelona and offers an insight into the vast history and cuisine that Spain and in particular Barcelona has to offer.

Dates of visit: Wednesday 10 July – Saturday 13 July 2019 inclusive

Travel to/from and around Barcelona

We will travel to Barcelona by plane from one of the London airports. We are likely to leave school quite early on Wednesday morning to arrive in Barcelona later that morning and enjoy a full day. In order to make the most of our time in Barcelona we may return late on Saturday evening, depending on flight availability. Transport around Barcelona will be by air conditioned coaches and is included in the price of the trip.

The detailed itinerary has yet to be finalised but it will mainly focus on attending cookery workshops, such as a visit to a Chocolate Museum, visiting the Papabuble sweets manufacturer, a Paella workshop, and touring the Barcelona Football Stadium (Camp Nou experience). We have also included time to see some of the main sites Barcelona has to offer on foot.

Costs and information

The cost of the trip will be no more than **£700** per student. This includes all travel, accommodation, breakfast and evening meals, excursions, cookery workshops, insurance and administration costs. This cost is a maximum estimate, and providing we book early enough, the overall price could be reduced depending on flight availability and costs.

Students will need valid European Union passports and European Health Insurance Cards. Applications for these should be made no later than March 2019. Please inform me if your child holds a passport from a country outside the European Union on return of the consent form below, as students may need to gain the correct visas in advance. The cost of the trip does not allow for visas or passport applications

We can take a maximum of 40 students on this trip and in the event that more than 40 students apply, names will be selected at random by computer to ensure fairness. Student wellbeing and safety is of paramount importance and we need to ensure that students will act sensibly in Spain. Therefore, if a student is involved in any serious disciplinary breach before the departure date, we reserve the right to cancel their place. Monies may not necessarily be refunded. I will be running the trip alongside three other experienced teachers.

Accommodation and meals

We will be staying in purpose built youth hostels located in central Barcelona. Students will be required to share rooms (all en-suite) and these will be single sex rooms. Our package with the accommodation is half board (breakfast and evening meals). However, students will need to purchase their own lunch and opportunities will be given to buy food during the day. I would suggest students are provided with a budget of €10 a day for lunch if the need arises to buy lunch. Where possible we will make a block booking for lunch to minimise costs.

Free time

There will be certain times when students are allowed some free time. At these times, they may be permitted to wander more freely, but only in small groups of four or more, around clearly defined areas. Students will not be allowed to wander around alone, go outside the defined area or leave the group without the explicit permission of staff. An emergency number will be issued to the group to be used if they should get separated at any time.

If your son or daughter is interested in participating in this trip, please fill in the attached consent form with full medical information, dietary requirements included and any food allergies. Please return this form to the Finance Office by **19 October 2018**. ***If you have filled in a form last year, can I please request that you refill to comply with the health and safety regulations. When completing the consent form can I ask that the students' names are very clearly written and are identical to the names that are on the passport that your child will be carrying at the time of the trip.***

Please be aware that at this point no payment needs to be made and that this letter is simply to gauge interest in the trip to get an idea of numbers. If your son or daughter is successful in being selected to attend the trip, then a letter will be sent to you asking for a deposit of **£150**. This will need to be paid by the date stated on that letter to ensure that a place has been reserved for your son or daughter.

Time frames for payments are as follows: -

Instalment amount	Date to be paid in by
£150 (deposit) Parent pay	31 October 2018
£200 Parent pay	16 November 2018
£200 Parent pay	15 February 2019
£130 Parent pay	15 March 2019

Monies to be paid via Parent pay

I do hope that your son or daughter will be able to take part in this exciting trip, which promises the opportunity to get to know Barcelona and the Spanish cuisine.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at: smoodley@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Moodley
Head of Food