



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JMG/LMS

09 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Trip to Cantabria-Spain- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

We contacted you a few weeks ago to inform you of our intention to organise a visit to Cantabria (Northern Spain) from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024, for Year 9 students currently studying Spanish. We are pleased to confirm that we have received sufficient interest for the trip to go ahead.

The trip is being organised with the help of the travel company NST, which is registered with ABTA and ATOL.

Our provisional itinerary includes the following activities:

Please note that, at this stage, the itinerary is provisional and subject to change.

- A visit to “El Capricho”, a villa designed by Gaudi who also designed La Sagrada Familia in
- Barcelona.
- A walk through the beautiful town of Comillas.
- -Spend time in the port town of Santillana del Mar.
- Entrance and cable car to Cabárceno National Park.
- Free time exploring the City of Santander.
- Boat trip to explore Santander Bay.
- Full day in the city of Bilbao with an opportunity to visit the famous Guggenheim Museum.
- Visit Picos de Europa, including cablecar.

#### **\*Flight Contingency**

**Airline seats cannot be held or price guaranteed until NST receives the deposit from every single student. Please be aware that if the cost of the flights has increased by the time the company has received the deposit, an additional £50.00 may be payable. It will never go over £50.**

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Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

Heckmondwike Grammar School Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 07348329. Registered office address as above.

The cost of the Trip is £720 (excludes flight contingency); this includes:

- All travel from school to our hotel and return
- Full-board accommodation for 3 nights
- Pack up lunches whilst in Cantabria
- All entrance fees
- Comprehensive insurance cover

The cost does not include meals enroute or spending money.

By enrolling your child onto the trip, you agree to pay both the deposit and all future instalments in line with the payment deadlines. Please note, the deposit is non-refundable, and should you need to withdraw your child(ren) from the trip, further charges could be incurred if a replacement cannot be found, or to change the name on the plane ticket.

Unfortunately, our Risk Protection Assurance policy will not offer cover if a student is unable to attend due to having a positive Covid test, hence in such circumstances no refunds would be available.

Please note that in exceptional circumstances, the Tour Operator reserves the right to add surcharges (e.g. currency surcharge in case the value of the Pound drops significantly against the Euro) which could slightly increase the cost.

The Payment schedule and dates are as follows:

**Non-refundable deposit of £150 immediately (by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023),**

Followed by two further payments to be received on the following dates:

**Interim Instalment of £150 is due - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Final Instalment of £420 is due - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

The total cost of the trip is to be paid on ParentPay. When you make deposit payment via ParentPay you will be prompted to provide parental consent for your child to attend this trip and you will also be asked to input your contact /medical details directly into a confidential section of ParentPay.

Places are limited to 40 but please note that we do not operate a 'first come first served' policy – if more than 40 students express an interest in the trip, then 40 places will be selected based on the criteria as set out in our Educational Visits Protocol which is on our website. Any unsuccessful students will be placed on a waiting list.

Please note that this visit falls under the Governors' Policy for charges and remissions. For information about how we request payments for trips and visits and to ensure no students are excluded due to financial hardship, please see the policy by following this link:

[Charging and Remissions](#)

### **Important information regarding travel documents:**

All students will be expected to travel using their own passport and passports will need to be valid for a period of at least **6 months** after the return date of the trip. Passports should also be no older than 10 years.

If your child has a passport issued by a country whose citizens normally require a visa to travel to France (e.g. China, India, etc...), please contact me as soon as possible, so that I can explain the procedure to follow.

### **ETIAS:**

From 2024, the European Union is planning to introduce its new European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). All British citizens wishing to travel to the EU, including those under the age of 18, will be required to apply for an ETIAS, which will be valid for 3 years, or until your child's passport expires, whichever comes first.

We understand that applications for children will be free.

At this stage, we do not know the exact date when the ETIAS will be introduced, and the EU is not yet accepting applications. However, should you wish to know more, please follow this link: [https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias\\_en](https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en)

### **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC):**

These documents, although not compulsory, are free and highly recommended. Should your child require medical treatment during the trip, they will avoid us having to pay medical fees upfront whilst waiting for a refund from our insurance company.

If your child applied for an EHIC card in his/her name when Britain was still part of the EU, the card will be valid until the expiry date. Otherwise, you can now apply for a GHIC cards. Applications can be made on the NHS website: [free global health insurance card](#)

When paying your deposit on ParentPay, you will be required to add your child's EHIC or GHIC number. If you do not have one yet, simply write 'I do not have one'.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jgodoy@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:jgodoy@heckgrammar.co.uk) if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Godoy



Teacher of Spanish