

Tomlinscote School & Sixth Form College

A Specialist Language College



21 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Exchange with Spain 2019

We are delighted to be able to offer a Spanish exchange with IES Alhamilla, Almeria on the South-East coast of Spain. The staff of the school are totally committed to their exchange programme and it has in every sense an international ethos and run a bilingual section within the school.

It is proposed that the Spanish party will visit us for 7 days in March 2020 dates to be confirmed. Tomlinscote students will go to Spain 17th – 24th October 2019, again these dates will be confirmed in due course.

We are hoping that the cost of the exchange will not exceed £400 per student. This will include return flights, a full programme of excursions and insurance. The final cost will depend on the total number of participants, the cost of excursions and other activities while in Spain, and the cost of flights. We will inform you of the final price once numbers have been determined. Exchanges represent excellent value for money compared with the cost of all other school trips.

Our school is in a very privileged position to be able to offer this opportunity to our students. Recent research suggests that overseas exchange trips, once a rite of passage for teenagers, are now offered by a minority of schools. According to an article published by the BBC only 39% of 450 schools surveyed in Britain offer this type of exchange. Reviving these trips is vital to "tackle a national language crisis" says the British Council.

There is no substitute for an exchange visit for those who really wish to make progress in a foreign language, and there is strong evidence at Tomlinscote that those who take part in an exchange visit achieve higher grades in GCSE. These visits not only boost language learning but also give pupils a unique taste of life abroad.

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in the Exchange please complete the attached reply slip and return it by **Thursday 23rd May 2019**, If the reply slip is not returned they will not be considered for the trip as we are oversubscribed.

If financial hardship prevents anyone from participating in the exchange, please let me know of this in writing. The information will, of course, be treated as confidential. Limited funding is sometimes available to assist in such cases.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Interim Principal

Interim Principal: Mr R Major, BSc
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*Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College is part of
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REPLY SLIP – SPANISH EXCHANGE 2019

TO BE RETURNED TO THE MFL OFFICE, ROOM B1.3 BY Thursday 23rd May 2019

I would like my son/daughter*

Tutor group..... to participate in the Spanish Exchange 2019 with the IES Alhamilla,
Almeria

I agree to accommodate an Exchange student in return yes/no

Please state if you would be willing to accept an exchange partner of the opposite sex to your child
yes/no

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Signature of Parent / Guardian.....

Date.....