



June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## Spanish Exchange 2025/26

I am absolutely delighted to confirm that we will be running our Spanish Exchange again in 2025-26 to the beautiful historic city of Vitoria-Gasteiz with Colegio Vera-Cruz. It will be open to all students of Year 11 studying GCSE Spanish. The exchange will provide a great opportunity to encounter both language and culture at first hand, to make new friends and develop self-confidence.

We are expecting the **cost to be no more than £575**; the price will depend on final student numbers and transport costs. Our provisional dates for the exchange are:

Provisional dates for the Spanish Exchange - inbound and outbound	
Vitoria-Gasteiz partners in Backwell	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Backwell party in Vitoria-Gasteiz	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

Students will attend school with their exchange partner and participate in a number of excursions to nearby places of interest. Possibilities include a trip to Bilbao, activities learning about Basque culture and a trip to the beautiful coastal surf town of San Sebastián.

To register interest and have the chance to be offered a place, I would be grateful if you would indicate your willingness for your child to participate in this exchange by completing the following MS Form (available from midday on Friday 20th June) by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July <https://forms.office.com/e/wkAhTrr6yJ>.

There is a limit to the number of students who can take part, so early application is essential in order to gain a place. Matches are partly made based on gender but does also depend on who applies in Spain. Once your child has been offered a place, we will issue them with a student profile form, which should be completed and returned to us as soon as possible, to enable us to match them to a Spanish student and give them an opportunity to make initial contact with each other.

Once they have been matched with a student in Spain, payment should be made via [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) the school's online cashless payment system. If you have any problems accessing the service or you wish to discuss payments or financial difficulties, please contact the Finance Team on 01275 465941.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and/or is Pupil Premium, financial assistance is available, please contact the Finance Team at [finance@backwellschool.net](mailto:finance@backwellschool.net) or via their direct line 01275 465941, to discuss further.

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The instalment schedule is expected to be follows:

<b>Instalment Payment Schedule</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Instalment Amount £</b>
30 June 2025	Non-Refundable Deposit	£125
31 July 2025	Non-Refundable Deposit	£125
31 August 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Instalment	£125
30 September 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment	£125
31 October 2025	Final Payment	£75

Please bear in mind that we will be reserving flights in July 2025. The first two instalments will be used to pay for air tickets and are, therefore, non-refundable. If payments are not made by the due dates, then we will be unable to reserve a flight for your child.

Your child will need a passport for travel in January 2026, valid for up to six months from the date of their return. Students will require a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) for health insurance purposes, which is available via the NHS website. Please ensure that you follow any national travel guidelines in the lead-up to the trip, including any visa requirements that may apply.

Due to a change in Government policy, we are now expected to obtain up-to-date DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificates for all parents who are perceived to be in 'regulated' activity and this includes host families in foreign exchanges. Once we have the list of students who are partaking in the Spanish Exchange, we will send full details about how to complete the forms and provide school with the correct identification.

Once arrangements are finalised for the incoming visit, we will arrange a parents' information evening meeting in September to discuss details of the incoming leg of the exchange. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

N Maguire  
Head of Spanish/Second in Languages