

## The Canterbury School – San Cayetano Exchange FAQ

### **I will be a IV Former next year. Am I too young to participate?**

Absolutely not! This program is perfect for the younger student (IV and V Formers) because it is family-based. When in Spain you will be with your host family and they will take care of you as if you were one of their own. Some of the time you will be at school, and you will participate in after school activities with your host student and family. Also, Palma de Mallorca is a very welcoming and safe city—great for walking and exploring.

### **I am only in Spanish 1 now. Will my Spanish be good enough to participate in the Exchange?**

When you first arrive in Spain it may seem like Spanish people speak 1,000 MPH. Also, they will use words that you haven't learned yet. So no matter what level you are in, it will be hard at the start. But within a few days your brain will start to adjust and you will start to see a difference in what you comprehend. Also, you will have your old friend, "**Más espacio, por favor**". Besides, you go to Spain to learn, your learning curve will be steep, which means you will be learning a lot! Your learning curve will be so steep that you may very well be able to skip a level of Spanish in the future at Canterbury! Previous participants have jumped a level of language.

### **5 weeks away from home sounds like a lot, I'm not sure I can handle that. Any advice?**

You are right. There is nothing we can tell you that will make the first few days go faster or make you feel better or more comfortable. The start of your stay in Spain will be hard. You will miss your family and friends. You will only understand half of what people say. Your brain will hurt!

But remember, you will be on an island paradise, playground of kings and queens. Plus, before you know it, the words will start to slow down for you, and you will understand almost everything you hear. Then, all of a sudden you will be in week 3 and then it will be time to return home. You won't believe how fast the time flies.

There is no doubt that the beginning will be hard, but the rewards will far outweigh those difficulties. Because of this, try to always focus on the end of the experience. If you focus on how you will feel at the end of the 5 weeks the difficult start will be easier to manage.

### **Can I just host a student and not commit to travel to Spain?**

Of course! It would be great if you and your family were to have a student from San Cayetano at your house! You could drive them to school and back, have them participate in family activities and show them around nearby attractions.

### **I hear that I will miss 2 weeks of school. How can I recover the work that I will miss?**

Well, we don't want to punish students who participate in the Exchange. So first, your Official Transcript will indicate that you participated in The Exchange. Second, the Academic Office does a GREAT job working on an individual basis with each student in order to get caught up on the missed work. Third, our teachers are flexible and supportive of the experience. Fourth, you need to be proactive during the summer in order to ensure an easy transition. Lastly, there are some classes for which you don't have to make up work (Spanish, for example!). Ultimately, this lifetime experience is very rewarding and entirely worth any hoops you will jump through!

### **How much does the Exchange cost? Is it expensive?**

In terms of dollars and cents, the Exchange costs very little. The ±\$1,800 cost for the 5-week stay in Spain is inexpensive in comparison to other similar programs. Just to compare, 10 or 14 day trips that the Language department could offer during a vacation could cost between \$3,500 AND \$4,000. That's for 10-14 days!

Also, the cost is spread out throughout the year. Part of the cost includes the spending money you will bring to Spain with you in August. Part of the cost is the cost of the airfare when the tickets are bought around April or May. Part of the cost is hosting the Spanish student when they stay with you.

### **How do I find out more about this AWESOME experience?**

- Students, go talk to Mr. Omaña. He has all of the answers!
- Parents, call or email [Julio Omaña](#) with any questions you may have (860) 671-0820.
- Talk to students at Canterbury who have participated in The Exchange:

Students who participated in the **2017-2018** Exchange are:

Olivia Allen  
Abby Omaña

Bella Cotier  
Erin Sudbey

Griffin Duffy

Grace LaVigne

### **When is the application for this trip due?**

Students who are seriously considering participating in the 2020 Exchange should sign-up through the Parent Portal link on Veracross, or on the link in the Travel Newsletter sent in November 2019. Informational meetings and due dates will take place in January and February 2020.