



St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

HOOKSTONE DRIVE • HARROGATE • HG2 8PT

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Dear Parent/Guardian

For the attention of students who will be in Y10, 11 or 12 next year - El CAMINO de SANTIAGO Trip

An interesting trip that has been established in recent years is planned to take place 13 -19 July 2017 to The Camino de Santiago, otherwise known as the Way of St. James. This is an ancient pilgrimage route normally undertaken on foot between the French Pyrenees and Santiago de Compostella in north-west Spain. It is believed that the relics of St. James the Apostle reside in Santiago Cathedral. The Camino has steadily grown in popularity with young people in recent years, both religious and non-religious alike. A popular recent film called 'The Way', starring Martin Sheen, is set on the Camino and gives a flavour of the experience. The plan is to undertake two key stages of this lengthy route over a two year period with around 20 of our current Year 10 students, though doing the first stage does not require commitment to the second.

The 2017 stage will start in the French Pyrenees and will involve 3 manageable days of walking to Pamplona in Northern Spain. Then there will be a rest day in the beautiful coastal resort of San Sebastian before flying home from Bilbao to Manchester. Accommodation will mostly be in pilgrim hostels and meals will be in restaurants that cater for the limited budgets of pilgrims. The trip is budgeted on the basis of having 20 students with 4 suitably experienced and qualified members of staff (the unusual nature of this activity requires this staff-pupil ratio). The overall price of £600 includes travel, accommodation and meals, and builds in a £100 reserve for contingencies which, if not required, will be equally distributed back to students/parents at the end of the trip. It is therefore likely that the final cost will only be £500.

Places will be available via the return of a non-refundable £100 deposit, to be sent by ParentPay by 21 July with reference to 'Camino 2017' with the relevant name. In the event of oversubscription we will randomly select names. At the time of writing, we have 5 places still available. If all the places are not filled this week, then there will be a further opportunity when we review the situation in September. There will be no further payments required until December 2016.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details and clearly a meeting and plenty of practical guidance will be supplied in good time prior to departure.

Yours sincerely

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