

27 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really excited about our trip to Belgium - Ostend in 3 weeks' time. We have now paid our final instalment to the company who are arranging the trip. Congratulations to Year 11 students who have now completed their GCSEs! We do have some documentation missing from some students, we have requested via email that you send these in asap.

Contact Numbers for emergency only:

In the UK: Mr Simpson 07775 323241/The Castle School: 01823 274073
In Belgium: Mr Adams 07595 070135

Staff

Nic Adams (Staff Leader) First Aider/Medical
Polly Leech (Staff)
Glyn Bowen (Visiting Instrumental Teacher) First Aider/Medical
Rachel Sweeting (Staff, Music Assistant)
Carolyn Tudor (Visiting Instrument Teacher)

Tour Instrumentalist Rehearsals

Monday 4 July Lunchtime
Friday 8 July Lunchtime
Monday 11 July Lunchtime

Extra weekly choir rehearsal

Tuesday Lunch Times J6

We would like to encourage all choir performers to attend both Wednesday after school and Tuesday lunchtime rehearsals, we understand this is not possible for the early GCSE students. This is to get our repertoire up to performance level and increase confidence on your individual parts.

Summer Showcase - Performance Evening

Monday 11 July 6:00-8:00

We would like to invite you all to our Summer Showcase. This is an evening of live music, dance and games, where you will be able to listen to all our tour repertoire. Tickets are available from student reception for £2. Make sure to bring a picnic, blanket/chair!

Information Evening – Question and Answer Session

Tuesday 5 July 6:00pm – via TEAMS

We will be holding a question-and-answer session for all parents and carers before tour on Microsoft Teams. This will give you an opportunity to look at the itinerary in more detail and for us to answer any questions you might have. Please feel free to email Mr Adams at NAdams1@castle.somerset.sch.uk if you have any confidential or urgent questions.

Kit List

We have put together a kit list attached to this letter to help you start thinking, in more detail, about what to pack. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need help.

Travel dates, Times and Youth Hostel

Departure Date: 14/07/22 Meet time 7:30am Leave Time 8:00am

Attached to this email is a document specifying all other dates, times, routes and youth hostel destination.

Itinerary

Attached to this email is a document specifying the daily itinerary.

Rooming

We now have room sizes and will be discussing rooms with individuals and groups. We will do our best to ensure that students are roomed with at least one friend.

Music Concert Tour Performance T-Shirts

Students should come to music asap to try on a polo shirt for size.

COVID and Insurance

The school's insurance company has confirmed that we are covered if someone tests positive while on the trip and therefore needs to isolate - this covers appropriate travel and hotel expenses. This would apply if the child was fully or not vaccinated. Please be aware that if your child needed to isolate for longer than the trip duration, you, (the parent/carer), would need to make arrangements to accompany the child during the isolation period. These costs would be covered by our insurance company.

If a child tested positive before the trip (within 5 days of departure), again the costs would be covered but you would have to provide evidence of a positive test.

Belgium:

- isolation for 7 days (needs to have improvement of any symptoms and not had a fever for at least 3 days)

France:

- isolation 7 days (5 days if receive a negative test) - fully vaccinated
- isolation 10 days (7 days if receive a negative test) - unvaccinated

Students with 1 Vaccination or Unvaccinated

Students who have 1 vaccination or are unvaccinated will need to take an antigen test in school the day before departure from UK to France (13/07/22). This will be supervised by a member of the pastoral team. A certificate will then be produced by a third-party company stating the result. The same group of students is also required to take a further antigen test the day before we leave Belgium (17/07/22). This is a requirement of the French COVID policy. The school will supply the Antigen test and parents will need to pay for the two tests at a total cost of £24.

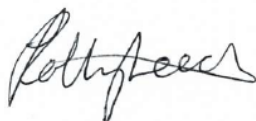
Pocket Money

All meals and excursions are included in the cost of the tour, so students will require only spending money and money for possible "top-ups" for food and drinks. (A small amount of cash in a named and sealed envelope may be given to a member of staff to keep for the return journey - in notes, please, not change).

Students should not require more than £50 spending money changed into euros. There will be opportunities for students to buy refreshments on the ferry and at service areas en route. If a student loses anything of value, it is vital that they tell Mr Adams, please, as this must be registered at the local police station to support any insurance claims which may be necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via email (nadams1@castle.somerset.sch.uk) or phone with any further queries you may have.

Yours sincerely



Nic Adams

Polly Leech

Trip Leaders