

23 May 2022

The Castle School Concert Music Tour – Ostend, Belgium

Departing 14 July 2022 and returning 18 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really excited about our trip to Ostend, Belgium in July. As the date of our music concert tour approaches we would like to make you aware of some updates and essential documents that we will collect and the necessary paperwork that is required for an overseas residential visit.

COVID Entry Requirements

- 1) Belgium does not currently have any COVID entry requirements but our transiting country, France, does. All students will be required to be double vaccinated. If fully vaccinated, the last vaccine to be within 9 months. Students who are not double vaccinated will be required to have a negative PCR or antigen test for travelling through France.
- 2) The requirements regarding vaccination and testing is detailed in a Microsoft forms questionnaire. The questionnaire is regarding your child's COVID vaccination status and can be accessed here <https://forms.office.com/r/fzpuakUeqr>. It is essential that you complete this by 7 June 2022.

Travel to Europe

Eurotunnel has now announced that it will not be carrying **any** coaches at all this summer and has therefore cancelled all the bookings that were made for such vehicles.

What this means is that, for groups such as ours who were due to travel by Eurotunnel, Club Europe our tour operator has had to switch to looking at DFDS or P&O Ferries. They have put in requests for our crossings with both ferry companies. Neither operator is confirming their bookings until the end of May/early June so we will be back in touch as soon as we know which ferry company we will travel with, and what the timings are.

Paper Forms to return

We would very much appreciate it if you could hand in the following documents to Student Reception by 7 June 2022. Alternatively, we are available to help or advise on 8 June from 6pm -7pm in the school hall where we be happy to assist you. Please book this help session by emailing me directly nadams1@castle.somerset.sch.uk.

- * Completed EV5 consent/medical form (enclosed).
- * Code of Conduct signed by students and parents (enclosed).
- * A valid EU Passport with at least 3 months until expiry from the date of return 18/7/22.
We will collect and store the passports securely, until departure. If you require your passport for travel before our departure please let us know.
- * An EHIC card in date at the time of travel. If your child does not have an EHIC card or the EHIC card has expired at the time of travel, students will need a GHIC card [Apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card \(GHIC\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/urls/apply-for-a-uk-global-health-insurance-card)

Increase in trip cost and final payment date

Due to the change of date and location and additional teacher supply costs this has impacted the total cost of the trip. The trip has increased by £28, from £663 to the new total of £691. I'm very sorry for the inconvenience this may cause. If you have financial difficulty paying the additional amount please contact me to discuss.

The final payment date has now passed and the full amount is now required: £691

If you would like a cost breakdown, please email me direct.

Accommodation

We will be staying half board at

De Ploate | jeugdherberg Ostend (jeugdherbergen.be) Langestraat 72, 8400 Oostende

Draft Basic Programme

NB this is a draft programme and is subject to change. A detailed programme will be supplied nearer the time.

Thursday 14 July 22	
Early Morning (Time TBC)	Depart The Castle School TA1 5AU
17:00 TBC	Arrive at accommodation: <u>De Ploate jeugdherberg Ostend (jeugdherbergen.be) Langestraat 72, 8400 Oostende</u>
Friday 15 July 22	
AM	Theme Park - Bellewaerde Park
PM Early	Evening meal
PM 8:00pm	CONCERT at Wapenplein Bandstand Kiosk – Ostend (200mtrs from accommodation)
Saturday 16 July 22	
AM	Bruge Gruuthuse canal cruise,
PM Afternoon	Concert Bruge at Kiosk, Stadspark Veurne
PM Evening	Evening Meal and beach activities
Sunday 17 July 22	
AM	Ypres, Menin Gate, In Flanders Fields Museum
PM Afternoon	Concert - Market Square Ypres
PM Evening	Evening Meal and beach activities
Monday 18 July 22	
20:00 TBC	Return to the UK.

We will be inviting parents/carers into school for a meeting when the channel crossing and student documentation has all been confirmed. This meeting will provide you with an opportunity to gain specific information regarding all aspects of the trip, including kit list and rooming. There will of course be a chance to ask any questions or to clarify any concerns.

If you would like to see some of the repertoire we intend to play on tour please book your tickets for the Summer Showcase, Monday 11 July 6pm – 8pm The Castle School field. Ticket are £2 and are available in advance from the Finance Office/Student Reception.

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
Head of Music

Polly Leech
Teacher of Music