



22 June 2023

Dear Families

Important information - Year 8 Culture Trip to Belgium - Monday 17 July to Wednesday 19 July 2023

We hope that your child is looking forward to our trip to Belgium. Ahead of this, please can you read the following information (below) about the trip and complete the form [HERE](#) as soon as possible.

Students are expected to wear normal school uniform on Thursday 20 July and Friday 21 July.

Departure

The trip leaves on Monday 17 July at **11.00am**. The coach will be leaving promptly to ensure we arrive in Dover in good time. Students should arrive in school at **10.00am** and make their way to the canteen to register, before final checks are made and the coach is boarded. Please enter via the fire exit in the front car park.

The coach will park on Bourg-de-Péage avenue, directly outside of school. Please ensure that you keep the top end of the road clear to leave plenty of space for the coach. School car parks will **not** be available for parents and if you are planning to park on the street, please be mindful of local residents and their needs.

Travel

Throughout the duration of the journey, students **must** wear a seatbelt and remain in their seats at all times. This is certainly pertinent when travelling through Europe where spot fines may be issued.

As our first meal is dinner on arrival, **please provide your child with plenty of water, snacks and a packed lunch to eat on the way.**

We aim to be back at Sackville at 7.50pm. Please be aware that there may be delays beyond our control and, alternatively, we may arrive back sooner. Students will keep you posted en route, so please make yourself available to pick up on time (even if we are early). Trips are fun but extremely exhausting and waiting on the late arrival of a parent can be frustrating; your child will also not appreciate it!

Stay

The trip is residential and will involve students spending two nights at the [Herdersbrug Youth Hostel](#). Once we have confirmation of rooming, we will be asking your child to choose who they would like to share with. Whilst we cannot guarantee that all requests will be successful, we will endeavor to accommodate all applications. Be aware that we cannot guarantee that WiFi is available at the accommodation.

Activities

Please see the itinerary below. Briefly, students will spend Tuesday at [Bellewaerde Park](#) and travel to Brugge on Wednesday to visit the chocolate shop and, if time permits, the city before travelling onward to Calais for the return ferry.

Documents

Students will be travelling on their own passport and these will need to be handed into Mr Pearson on registering. These will be held securely with staff or in the hotel safe unless needed by students when going through customs. Information has been requested about your child's passport (the link to the form is [here](#) if you have not yet completed it). **It is recommended that passports are valid for at least 3 months after the date of travel.**

The West Sussex Insurance will cover any medical situations while abroad. If you do have an EHIC/GHIC card, they are valid until their expiry date and I would recommend that you bring it with you. If you don't have one you can still apply for the GHIC card on the NHS website: <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/cra/start>
I would recommend you apply for one as they will cover you for future journeys too.
Students will be in charge of keeping their EHIC safe.

Packing

Students should dress in clothing appropriate and comfortable for walking outdoors.
Specifically, students should make sure they pack the following:

- enough clean clothes for the duration of the trip, plus a spare change just in case
- **Passport**, to be handed to Mr Pearson on registering
- Small amount of spending money for the chocolate shop, gift shops etc. (optional)
- Packed lunch (for the outward journey), plus money to buy lunches. **Lunch is not included in the price of the trip**, so please ensure that you make arrangements with your child for this. If your child receives free school meals, then arrangements will be made by the school
- Walking shoes/boots or sturdy trainers suitable for uneven terrain and/or longer periods of walking
- A towel (the hotel does not provide these)
- Toiletries
- A waterproof jacket
- Sun tan lotion, sun hat
- Water bottle

Pack your belongings in a soft, sports bag (**no suitcases**). This bag will go in the hold and will not be accessible until we arrive at the accommodation. Pack a small day bag for the journey.

Remember your packed lunch for the journey to Belgium!

Valuables

Anything of value should be left at home. No responsibility will be taken for loss or damage to electronic devices or anything of value and these are not covered by our insurance.

Whilst there is no limit on how much money to bring, it is the student's responsibility to look after it (see the above note). We recommend €50 for the duration of the trip. Please ensure this is changed up before the trip.

Conduct

Students will be representing Sackville throughout the trip and it is an expectation that staff instructions are followed without exception. We reserve the right to withdraw any student from an activity, if this is not adhered to.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at cthompson@sackvilleschool.org.uk or jpearson@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr C Thompson
Trip Organiser

Mr J Pearson
Trip Leader



Monday 17 July	<p>10.30am Arrival at school</p> <p>11.00am Depart school</p> <p>1.00pm Approximate arrival at the ferry terminal in Dover</p> <p>3.10pm Ferry departs Dover</p> <p>5.40pm Arrival in Calais and transfer to <i>Herdersbrug Youth Hostel</i>, approximately 1h 45m drive</p> <p>Evening meal</p>
Tuesday 18 July	<p>8.00am Breakfast</p> <p>9.00am Transfer to <i>Bellewaerde Park</i>, approximately 1h drive</p> <p>6.00pm Return to coach for travel back to accommodation</p> <p>Evening meal</p>
Wednesday 19 July	<p>8.00am Breakfast, room inspection and check out</p> <p>9.00am Transfer to <i>Brugge</i>, approximately 20 min drive</p> <p>9.30am Visit to the chocolate shop</p> <p><i>If time allows, free time in Brugge</i></p> <p>1.30pm Transfer to Calais, approximately 1h 30min drive</p> <p>5.20pm Ferry departs Calais</p> <p>5.50pm Arrival in Dover and travel back to school</p> <p>7.50pm Approximate arrival time</p>