

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



November 2023

Dear Parent(s),

RE: Northern Ireland Citizenship Trip, 22nd November – 24th November 2023

With a couple of weeks remaining before we depart for Northern Ireland, this letter covers the key information you and your child need to prepare for the trip's departure on the 22nd November. Apologies for the delay sending this out, we have been waiting for final confirmation of the itinerary from the tour company.

As with any school trip, please note that when on the Northern Ireland visit all pupils are bound by the regulations in the school's Code of Conduct for Trips and Visits. Please review these regulations via the link below and ensure that your child is aware of the required standards of behaviour.

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1070>

Departure from and return to school

We will meet at school outside the main gates at 02:40am on Wednesday 22nd November. Our flight number on the 22nd November is BA1414. [Please can we encourage students to have an early night on the Tuesday so they have *some* sleep before heading to school in the early hours of Wednesday].

On our return we will let students know to contact home once we are on the coach and on our way back to school. Our flight number on Friday 24th November is BA1421. Please do not wait in the bus stop outside the school as this is where the coach will park.

Contacting us whilst on the trip

If there is something that is not urgent, please contact school on enquiries@shsb.org.uk. However, if it requires more immediate attention, you can contact us via the school phone on 079811770404.

Passports

Please send your child in with their passport on Monday 20th November. They should hand it in to the Finance office or to Mr Sainsbury at breaktime in H3. The passports will be kept securely in school overnight until Tuesday afternoon when Mr Sainsbury will keep hold of them prior to our departure.

Hotel Details



Our hotel is the Hastings Stormont Hotel in Belfast. Contact number is 028 9065 1066.

Our itinerary

Wednesday 22 nd November	02:40 Coach to Heathrow from SHSB 07:00 Flight Departs 08:25 Land in Belfast 10:00 Free time in Belfast City Centre 11:30 Guided Walking Tour of West Belfast 14:00 Lunch stop (not included) 15:15 A visit to Crumlin Road Gaol 17:30 Tour and visit to Queens University, Belfast [TBC] 18:45 Dinner near Queens University [Holohan's Pantry – Included] 20:30 Arrive at hotel	<p>Students will need to wear comfortable shoes/trainers that are suitable for walking in. They should also have suitable coats for the cold and rain which is highly likely at this time of year.</p> <p>Students will need money for all food on this day except Dinner which is included and menu options have been selected already. Breakfast is likely to be at Heathrow or during free time in Belfast on arrival before our walking tour. Lunch is likely to be a short stop somewhere central in Belfast.</p>
Thursday 23 rd November	07:00 Breakfast at the hotel (included) 08:00 Depart on coach 09:25 Guided tour of the Giants' Causeway 11:30 Return to coach + lunch stop (not included) 14:00 Museum of Free Derry Visit 15:30 Explore the Bogside Murals, Walk along the City Walls 17:00 Depart for Belfast 19:00 Arrive for Dinner [Robinson's – Included] 20:00 Return to hotel 20:30 Evening Activity at the hotel	<p>Students will need suitable footwear for walking – walking tours and the Giants Causeway visit will mean much of the day on our feet. They should also have suitable coats for the cold and rain which is highly likely at this time of year.</p> <p>Students will need money for lunch.</p>
Friday 24 th November	07:30 Breakfast at the hotel (included) 08:45 Depart on coach 09:15 Tour of the Stormont parliament Buildings 11:00 Depart on Coach 11:30 Free time in Belfast City Centre 14:00 Arrive for Titanic Museum Visit 16:45 Return to Coach & Depart for Airport 18:00 Check in at Belfast City Airport 20:15 Flight Departs 21:30 Land at Heathrow 23:30 Approximate arrival time at SHSB	<p>Students will need money for lunch (in Belfast) and dinner (at Belfast City Airport).</p>

What to bring

When packing, please be mindful of restrictions for hand luggage which can be found here – <https://www.britishairways.com/en-gb/information/baggage-essentials/liquids-and-restrictions>

Hand Luggage: One piece of standard baggage no bigger than 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm including the handle, pockets and wheels

Checked Luggage: One piece not exceeding 23 kg and no bigger than 90 cm x 75 cm x 43 cm including the handle, pockets and wheels

Hand luggage should be a rucksack which students will be able to use on each day of the trip to carry the things they need for that day.

To be on the safe side, students should pack a change of clothes in their hand luggage in case their luggage gets delayed as this will ensure they have at least one change of clothes when arriving in Northern Ireland if their luggage doesn't make it across at the same time as us.

Coat/Waterproofs – students should have warm clothing with them and a warm coat for being outside, if this is not waterproof they should also bring a waterproof coat with them too in case of heavy rain. A lot of our time on the trip will be spent outdoors so being warm and weatherproof as much as is possible will be crucial. Hat/Gloves/Scarf would also be advisable in case it is particularly cold or windy.

Footwear – Students should wear shoes which are comfortable, suitable for walking for some time and should be waterproof. They should consider having a pair of shoes to wear around the hotel in case the shoes we are walking in during the day get wet, muddy, etc and need to dry out.

Reusable water bottle – Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle that can be filled up each day to limit our impact and reduce the number of plastic bottles that are bought/used.

Money – students will need money to cover their lunch on each day as well as breakfast on Wednesday and food in the evening on Friday. Additionally, if they want to buy snacks and/or gifts/souvenirs they will need money for that too.

Thank You

Thank you again for your support with these arrangements. Please do let us know if there are any additional questions and we look forward to a successful trip at the end of the month.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sainsbury
Trip Organiser