

Göttingen/Gloucester Austausch 2019

Monday 4th March – Monday 11th March 2019



Information for Parents and Students

Important information for parents and students

1. **Times of departure:** Lufthansa flight LH 955 Birmingham to Frankfurt, departing at 13:35. Arrival in Frankfurt at 16:05 on **Monday 4th March** 2019. Departure from HSFG at 9:00, **9:10 STRS** (via Rover European), Coach transfer to Göttingen. Arrival time approx. 20:30.
2. **Return flight:** Frankfurt to Birmingham, **Monday 11th March** LH 956, departing 16:50 and arriving Birmingham 17:25. **Collect from STRS at 19:45.** We will only be able to advise you of the arrival time when we are in the coach on the way back. Students should text arrival time to parents when advised by staff.
3. Passports and EHIC cards should be kept by students. When in Germany they can be left in the home of the host family. **DO NOT LEAVE PASSPORTS ON THE PLANE OR ANYWHERE ELSE WHEN TRAVELLING!**
4. **Destination:**

Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium Göttingen

Carl-Zeiss-Straße 6
37081 Göttingen/ Germany

Tel.: 0551/400-5380
5. **Names of leaders and accompanying staff**
Mrs Testoni-Ranken, Sir Thomas Rich's school, Mrs Loveridge, High School for Girls, Mr Tom Williams, Sir Thomas Rich's school.
6. **Contact arrangements in German:**
07340362201 (Mrs Testoni-Ranken), 07862758856 (Mr Williams), 07969667814 (Mrs Loveridge)

Staff will be available to the students at all times on their mobile phones if a genuine problem needs sorting out.
7. **Advice on pocket money**
Between 50€ - 100€ – the German families are usually very generous with food and will always pay for snacks etc. when out. You may wish to get some Euros for the weekend for shopping.
8. **Insurance:** The normal school trips insurance covers this visit. Please contact the school if you need further information on what is covered.

Essential packing list

Passport / EHIC card

Clothes for 8 days (warm coat, comfy shoes, boots, camera / batteries / travel adaptors / charging cables – **GERMAN PLUGS HAVE 2 prongs, please look online!**

Diary (Hosentaschenbuch) and pencil case

Mobile phone if you have one (although please don't lose it as the school will not be responsible for any loss or damage to your own electronic equipment)

Gift (s) for the host family – no alcohol please!

Pocket money (Euros)

Toiletries (no need for towels)

- a) **Clothing/footwear and other items to be taken:** don't bring your school uniform. What to wear can vary greatly, but the weather is mostly likely still to be cold in March. **Please make sure you bring comfortable walking shoes for trips out as there will be a lot of walking!**
- b) Ensure your appearance is respectable and suitable to weather conditions.
- c) **Luggage regulations:** Take into account airport regulations when packing hand luggage in terms of liquids and sharp objects. Baggage hold restriction is 25kg per passenger.
- d) **Code of conduct:** Students should remember that they are ambassadors for the school at all times while on school trips and should therefore always behave well. In this instance they are also ambassadors for their country as well. Smoking and drinking alcohol are expressly forbidden. Students should be kind, courteous and polite at all times.
- e) **Supervision:** There will be times when students will not be under direct supervision of staff as they will be with their host families. During the evening and the weekend they will be with the host family. While on excursions during the week they will be supervised by staff.

We hope that students will thoroughly enjoy their time in Germany, make many new friends and speak as much German as possible. They are bound to find the exchange a memorable one! Careful observation of the following guidelines should ensure that these are memories to be cherished and not regretted.

The journey to and from Germany:

You must have a valid passport and EHIC card. Stay with the group especially at the airport and when visiting big cities. Be punctual at meeting places. Guard your luggage. NEVER agree to carry luggage from a stranger, however frail and innocent they may seem. Do not walk around with your bag open or your money/ phone clearly visible.

If possible, take a suitcase with wheels as it makes it a lot easier to move it around.

Transport:

On most days we will meet at the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium to start our excursions. When we are travelling to Berlin and Hannover, we will go by train. There will be one joint event (a sports event). Your partner/ host family will ensure that you are always in the right place at the right time. Please always ask your partner/ family if you are unsure about any of the arrangements for drop off or pick up. If you are still unclear about any arrangements, please inform your teacher. We can quickly chase things up.

Learn your route home from your partner's school. **Exchange mobile phone numbers with your partner on the day you arrive and try it out / get them to ring you.** Always look out for landmarks when on trips or outings with the family and school. Keep strictly to arrangements for getting home and meeting others. NEVER go out or return home on your own at night. NEVER accept lifts from strangers. Make sure you take a small rucksack or similar to put provisions (sandwiches and water etc.) in for the day when you go on day trips. Remember that in Germany, cars drive on the right. Look left first when crossing the road. Be aware of other passengers and be polite and considerate whilst travelling on the tram / bus / train.

Give your teacher and two of your friends on the trip your mobile number and always stay in groups of three or more.

Money

Do not spend all your money at once or keep all the money in one place. Be careful about pickpockets (especially in Berlin and Hannover) and always check your change. Remember, that you pay a deposit for bottles and cans in Germany. Never throw them into the bin, take them back to a shop or the family instead. Even if funds are limited, offer at least once to buy your partner a soft drink or hot chocolate. It would be nice if you were to take a small gift with you for the family, something unbreakable and easily portable. Take some Euros for the weekend – but ask your host family in advance if they plan to take you shopping.

Alcohol and smoking: You may NOT under any circumstances smoke nor drink alcoholic drinks on the journey there and back, during your stay or on any of the organised excursions. Your teachers and your host family are acting in 'loco parentis' and are there to keep you safe and out of trouble. If you have any worries about the safety or behaviour of anyone on the exchange please let a teacher know. Anyone guilty of serious misconduct will be sent home with a member of staff at their parents' expense.

Medication

You must carry your own first aid with you at all times, particularly any special medication you may require such as travel sickness pills, inhaler or treatment for allergies. Bring spares.

Staying with the family in Spain:

- a) Treat your partner and his/her family as you would like to be treated yourself.
- b) Be pleasant, positive and considerate. However limited your German, please say 'Hallo/ Guten Morgen' in the morning, then 'Danke, Bitte, Gute Nacht, ja/nein' when the opportunity presents itself. If you don't understand, you can ask politely for repetition 'Können Sie/ Kannst du das bitte wiederholen!'
- c) Keep your room clean and tidy. The family will have taken trouble to get it ready for you; the parents or another member of the family may even have given up their room for you.
- d) Do not use your mobile phone so much that you do not spend enough time with your partner.
- e) Don't leave litter or food to fester under your bed! Collect up dirty washing and keep it in a carrier bag, your family might even offer to wash clothes for you. Ask where you can hang up wet towels/clothes to dry. Your host family will supply towels, if not ask for one! (See the Hosentaschenbuch for handy phrases).
- f) Join in family life as much as possible. Much of the benefit to be gained as far as your German language skills are concerned will be with your host family, as you will (probably) be speaking English with other pupils during the day. Talk to the brothers, sisters, parents, neighbours. Use every chance to go on outings with them, discuss the family photo album, visit Granny, play the occasional board game – such things take on a whole new dimension when conducted in a foreign language. Some families speak good English and you will have to make it clear from the beginning that you want to speak as much German with them as possible. **Do not spend every other minute either texting or playing games on your phone / tablet, please make an effort to socialise.**

- g) Be cooperative: don't expect to be taxied around or use the family as a hotel while you go off with your English friends. Offer to help in the house. Ask your partner what they want to do rather than dictating your own arrangements.
- h) Be adventurous! Your family will give you packed lunches to take on the day excursions: it will usually be perfectly edible so please do not throw it away, try it even if it is not what you are used to. You might be surprised and like it. No need to take tons of sugary things and snacks with you. Also, think about it: it might offend your host family if you are not even prepared to try their food or if you are not hungry because you indulged in fast food on a trip, when your host family has gone to great length to cook something special for you!

Outline of the programme

Tue 5/03, Göttingen (Mayor, town trail): walking

Wed 6/03, Hannover (city, zoo): train (regional), walking, tram, bus

Thu 7/03, Berlin (city): train (ICE), walking

Fri 8/03, joint activity, Eiswiese (swimming pool): bus