



# The Castle School

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Mr J Lamb  
Headteacher

19 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really excited about our trip to New York in February. I think the next few months will fly by and it will be here before we know it.

The date for final payment is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

We have put together a kit list to help you to start thinking, in more detail, about what to pack. The post-Christmas sales may be a good opportunity to get anything on the list that you have not already got.

We will hold an information evening in late January/ early February – date to be confirmed after Christmas. We plan to collect and keep passports at this point.

Best wishes

Alexa Step  
Visit Leader

<p>Luggage</p> <p><a href="#">Baggage information   Virgin Atlantic help centre</a></p>	<p>Virgin Atlantic</p> <p><b>One checked in bag</b></p> <p>Maximum weight 23kg</p> <p>Maximum dimensions 90 x 75 x 43cm (including handles and wheels)</p> <p><b>Hand luggage (suggestion back-pack)</b></p> <p>The size of your bag needs to be a maximum of 23 x 36 x 56cm</p> <p>There are very tight restrictions on what can be carried in hold and hand luggage. Please check out the website when packing. No liquids should be carried in hand luggage. Nail clippers, tweezers etc. should be packed in hold luggage. Any electronic gadgets need to have charge and be carried in hand luggage</p> <p><b>We request that no liquids are carried in hand luggage.</b></p> <p>Students must be able to manage their own baggage. Trolleys in airports may not be available and so luggage on wheels may be the best option.</p> <p>All luggage needs to have an identifying feature, so it is easy to pick out on a carousel.</p> <p>It is essential that luggage tags are on each separate piece of luggage with the following information on</p> <p><b>Outbound Destination:</b> Student name C/O The Castle School Hostelling International 891 Amsterdam Ave, New York NY 10025 USA</p> <p><b>Return destination:</b> Student name C/O The Castle School Taunton Somerset UK TA1 5AU</p>
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<p>Passport &amp; ESTA</p>	<p>We will collect passports from students the week before travel and keep them until they are needed at the airport.</p> <p>Passports will be kept by your child's key member of staff and only be given to students when they need to present it on their own.</p> <p>We will take a printed copy of all students ESTAs. Staff will prepare and take these.</p>
<p>Food and money for journey to airport on the first day</p> <p><b>Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>          Depart Heathrow at 13:05 hrs          Arrive New York (JFK) at 16:05 hrs</p> <p>Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February          Depart New York (JFK) at 22:59 hrs</p> <p>Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February          Arrive Heathrow 10:30 hrs</p> <p><a href="#">Food And Drink On-Board Our Planes   Virgin Atlantic</a></p>	<p>We will get to London Heathrow airport at around 9am. Leaving The Castle School at 5am.          Please pack breakfast snacks to keep students going on the coach journey. We may stop at a service station so some money to spend there is optional.</p> <p>It might be a good idea to have a little money to buy a hot drink and light lunch once we have checked in at the airport.</p> <p>Appropriate meals will be supplied on the flight for the duration. The airline will have a record of the student's dietary requirements. Complimentary snacks and drinks are also served throughout the flight.</p> <p>Please do get in touch if you have any concerns and we will ask our tour company to follow these up with the airline.</p>
<p>Entertainment gadgets  <a href="#">Virgin Atlantic Inflight Entertainment   Virgin Atlantic</a></p>	<p>If taking personal games consoles for the journey students must use earphones at all times. These should be used only on coach journeys, in the airport and during the flight. They should not be taken out of the hostel and can be locked in their dorm locker. These must travel in hand luggage and be fully charged.</p> <p>Virgin Atlantic have an inflight entertainment system called Vera. Each seat will have a tv where students can watch from a wide selection of tv series, movies, audio and games.</p>
<p>Comfort whilst travelling</p>	<p>Students may wish to take items that make them feel comfortable whilst travelling; neck pillows, eyes masks, ear buds.</p> <p>The flight back is overnight, and the airline will provide blankets.</p> <p>Students should wear loose fitting clothing that is comfortable to fly in.</p>
<p>Outer – wear</p>	<p>Students will need a warm winter coat. Temperatures in New York in February can dip below 0 degrees. It</p>

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	<p>may be useful to have a coat with pockets on the inside so mobile phones can be stored.</p> <p>Students will need warm and comfortable walking shoes/boots.</p> <p>Ground could be frozen and icy, and we are planning to do a lot of walking.</p> <p>Gloves, hat and scarf.</p>
Thermal clothing	<p>It would be a good idea to bring thermal vests and leggings to keep warm.</p>
Clothing	<p>Lots of layers and students might go from cold to warm environments.</p> <p>Comfortable clothes as students will spend all day in the same outfit with no time to change for evenings out.</p>
Workshop clothing	<p>To give students the most professional experience we are asking them to bring a set of all black clothing for the workshop – leggings/jogging bottoms and a t-shirt would be fine. No jeans to be worn for the workshop.</p> <p>Students may be asked by the professional leading the workshop to be bare foot.</p>
Nightwear	<p>Students will be sharing dormitories with other students from The Castle School. Bathrooms will be close by, but the rooms do not have ensuite facilities – therefore we advise students to have the following:</p> <p>Pyjamas</p> <p>Slippers</p> <p>Flip flops for the showers</p> <p>Dressing gown/ something similar</p> <p>Toiletry bag to take down to the bathroom with a hook to hang on door.</p> <p>Please note shower cubicles include changing space and individually lock. Students will have privacy whilst showering.</p>
Toiletries	<p>Students need to supply all their own toiletries and a towel.</p> <p>We plan to have early starts in New York (after late nights) so students will have limited ‘getting ready’ time before breakfast. It might be worthwhile taking a small travel hairdryer, but I think there will be little time for hair straightening and styling!</p>
Spending money	<p>A small amount of £ for any snacks or drinks at Heathrow.</p> <p>\$</p> <p>Students will have short opportunities to look in shops and buy souvenirs.</p> <p>Students will be in charge of their own spending money.</p> <p>The amount they take is at the parent/carers discretion.</p>

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	<p>Money for meals will be given each day by members of staff – this was accounted for in the price of the trip and will cost you no more.</p> <p>Any snacks or additional food can be bought by students out of their own spending money.</p> <p>A guide for spending money is no more than \$150</p>
Backpack	Students must have an all-weather backpack – again with a luggage tag on.
A drinks' bottle	To be carried empty until we get into the departure lounge.
Towel	The hostel provides bed linen but not a towel.
A padlock	The dormitories have lockers for students to store their belongings safely when not there. The lockers require padlocks provided by students.
Carrier bags	Useful to separate dirty/wet washing from dry clean clothes in their cases
Night light	If you potentially might be reading after lights out a night light might be useful to allow others to sleep undisturbed
Phone & Charger	<p>All personal numbers will be collected in advance.</p> <p>Please make sure you are familiar with the terms in your phone contract about using data in the USA. It is advised that if phone contracts do not have data/call allowance in USA you should look into Bolts On.</p> <p>Students may wish to use their phone in an emergency situation.</p>
Travel accessories	Travel pillows, eye masks, ear plugs etc. Please do not bring pillows or blankets.