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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 2nd 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



Luggage

<u>Baggage information | Virgin Atlantic</u> help centre

Virgin Atlantic

One checked in bag

Maximum weight 23kg

Maximum dimensions 90 x 75 x 43cm (including handles and wheels)

Hand luggage (suggestion back-pack)

The size of your bag needs to be a maximum of 23 x 36 x 56cm

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

We request that no liquids are carried in hand luggage.

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.

All luggage needs to have an identifying feature, so it is easy to pick out on a carousel.

It is essential that luggage tags are on each separate piece of luggage with the following information on

Outbound Destination:

Student name C/O The Castle School Hostelling International 891 Amsterdam Ave, New York NY 10025 USA

Return destination:

Student name C/O The Castle School Taunton Somerset UK TA1 5AU

Passport & ESTA	We will collect passports from students the week before travel and keep them until they are needed at the airport.
	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.
	We will take a printed copy of all students ESTAs. Staff will prepare and take these.
Food and money for journey to airport on the first day	We will get to London Heathrow airport at around 9am. Leaving The Castle School at 5am.
Saturday, 15 th February Depart Heathrow at 13:05 hrs Arrive New York (JFK) at 16:05 hrs	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.
Wednesday, 19 th February Depart New York (JFK) at 22:59 hrs	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.
Thursday, 20 th February Arrive Heathrow 10:30 hrs Food And Drink On-Board Our Planes Virgin Atlantic	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.
	Please do get in touch if you have any concerns and we will ask our tour company to follow these up with the airline.
Entertainment gadgets <u>Virgin Atlantic Inflight Entertainment </u> <u>Virgin Atlantic</u>	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. 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.
Comfort whilst travelling	Students may wish to take items that make them feel comfortable whilst travelling; neck pillows, eyes masks, ear buds. The flight back is overnight, and the airline will provide blankets. Students should wear loose fitting clothing that is comfortable to fly in.
Outer – wear	Students will need a warm winter coat. Temperatures in New York in February can dip below 0 degrees. It

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	Money for meals will be given each day by members
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	of staff – this was accounted for in the price of the trip
	and will cost you no more.
	Any snacks or additional food can be bought by
	students out of their own spending money.
	A guide for spending money is no more than \$150
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	All personal numbers will be collected in advance.
o	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.
	Students may wish to use their phone in an
	emergency situation.
Travel accessories	Travel pillows, eye masks, ear plugs etc. Please do not
	bring pillows or blankets.
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