

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

The following information is to help you/your child prepare for the PISCES course.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

For international flights the nearest London airports are Heathrow and Gatwick. The journey time to Poole from Heathrow is approximately 1½ hours by taxi and from Gatwick approximately 2 hours by taxi. In addition there are some direct flights from some European cities to Bournemouth International airport (15 minutes by taxi) and Southampton airport (45 minutes by taxi).

Travel arrangements should be made so that the student arrives on the Sunday before the start of their course and leaves on the Sunday following the end of their course. If possible, the flights should be arranged to arrive in the U.K. after 07.00 and before 19.00. Departure flights should be after 09.00 and before 20.00. It is important to provide the School with clear flight information to avoid any delays at the airport.

Most airlines only accept unaccompanied minors (aged 16 and under) if they are being met on arrival by an appointed representative. It may be necessary to pay an extra fee to the airline for under 16s travelling alone. Please check with your travel agent. PISCES provides an “accompanied taxi meeting service”. All drivers carry identity cards and an authorisation letter from PISCES. Please note that the taxi transfers are not included in the course price - see price list for details. For groups, a mini-bus or coach transfer can be arranged.

ACCOMMODATION

During the course, students live in homestay accommodation with English Hosts (host families), located within easy walking distance of the school. All accommodation is carefully selected to suit the needs of young students and checked regularly by our Accommodation Officer.

Accommodation is usually in twin bedded rooms (two students per room). The hosts provide all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), bed linen and towels, plus a laundry service. Students are never left alone in the house. When they have free time on their programme, they are included in the family's normal activities.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

On the first day, students are brought to school by their host family. All students take an entry test to assess their level of English and to place them in the appropriate class. After the test, there is an induction to the school to provide the new students with all the information they need for their stay, a tour of the school facilities and introductions to the Teachers and Activity Leaders.

Students are provided with a work folder, map, student identity card and weekly timetable of activities at their Induction. An example timetable is shown on the price list. All students enrolled on PISCES courses are obliged to attend the whole programme, without exception.

ENGLISH LESSONS

From Monday to Friday there are 3 hours of English lessons per day. All the teaching materials and books are provided. Classes are graded according to the students' level of English; this is determined by the test on the first day of school and re-assessed on a regular basis. Classes are mixed nationality with a maximum of 15 students in each class. On average, there are 12 students in each class.

All our teachers are professional, enthusiastic and dedicated. The course content is lively, interesting and above all, communicative. Students are given a work folder for their lessons but they must provide their own pens.



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Sports and activities are organised four days a week. The timetable is arranged to provide a selection of sports and other creative activities.

Each day, students are given several options to choose from. These include:





 Swimming  Football  Basketball  Volleyball,  Baseball  Water Polo  Dancing
 Board Games  Quizzes  Poster Design  Beach Games  Ping-Pong  Mini Olympics.

All sports and activities are organised and supervised by our Activities' Leaders. The School provides the sports equipment and instruction. Students must bring their own sports shoes, swimwear and suitable clothing in order to take part in the programme.

EVENING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Leisure time is very important to the development of young students. We choose the evening social activities carefully to ensure that they have fun in a safe environment. Students continue to develop their speaking and listening skills and make new friends whilst partaking in enjoyable activities.

Typical evening activities include:

 Ten Pin Bowling  International Parties  Barbecues  International Discos (for under 18's)
 Film Nights  Firework Displays  Games Nights.






After all evening activities, students are taken back to their homestay (host family) accommodation by private taxi. This is a unique service provided by **PISCES at no extra cost** to ensure the safety and well being of young students and peace of mind for their parents.

Sundays and two evenings per week are spent with their host families. During this time, they will learn about the English way of life and join in with the family activities.






EXCURSIONS

A Guide and Activities' Leaders accompany all excursions and the School arranges private transportation. Excursions are designed to be interesting and educational. Students are given projects or tasks relating to their excursions. This encourages them to work together in small groups as well as individuals.

Once a week there is a half-day excursion to a local town or place of historical interest. Examples include:

 Corfe Castle  Christchurch  Hengistbury Head & Mudeford  Wimborne  Bournemouth Quiz

On Saturdays there is a full-day guided excursion to one of England's famous places. Examples include:

 London  Dorset Jurassic Coastline  Winchester  Bath  Oxford

For excursions, students will need comfortable shoes, a light waterproof jacket and sun protection cream (for pale skins). Also recommended is a camera to record the places that they have visited.

POCKET MONEY & STUDENT BANK

The school operates a safety deposit for the safekeeping of important documents such as passports, flight tickets and pocket money (student bank). Each student is obliged to deposit these items on the first day of school. They will receive a personal record form for deposits and withdrawals to/from the student bank. They may take out money from the student bank every weekday. Passports, flight tickets and any remaining pocket money will be returned to them on their last day of school.

We suggest that pocket money be provided for small purchases such as souvenirs, postcards, snacks and drinks etc. The amount of pocket money you provide is at your discretion. We recommend a maximum of £75.00 per week.



CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

To ensure that all students come fully prepared to enjoy and participate in all the programmed activities; a recommended clothing list is provided on enrolment. It is essential that students wear suitable sports shoes (trainers) and clothing for sports activities.

During the summer the weather is generally hot or very mild although it can be changeable. Daytime temperatures are 21°C - 30°C. All types of weather may be experienced in one day and sometimes it can be cool in the evenings. Therefore, we recommend that all students bring an umbrella and a warm waterproof jacket for excursions and evening activities.

WELFARE, MEDICAL & INSURANCE

Our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of your children during their stay with us. The Course Director personally supervises all welfare and medical matters. A 24-hour emergency telephone help line is available to all students.

Parents must arrange adequate travel and medical insurance for the period of the course and provide the school with a 24-hour emergency contact telephone number for the period of the course.

If the student has a medical condition or severe allergy it is important that detailed information is provided to the school at the time of enrolment. This information will be treated confidentially. The school will not be responsible for incidents that occur as a result of medical information not being provided or students refusing to take their medication.

According to English law, the School is not allowed to administer medication to students (this includes for example aspirin or paracetamol). If a student is required to go to a doctor or the hospital, the Course Director will inform the parents as soon as the problem is properly diagnosed. In such cases, the parents/guardians are responsible for any medical expenses incurred. In the case of a serious medical problem or emergency, a parent or guardian will be required to give written consent to medical treatment and may be required to come to the U.K.

VISAS

Students who require a visa to come to the U.K. should contact the British Embassy to check the procedure and make an appointment. The British Embassy requires proof of payment and a letter of acceptance from the school. For further information you can contact the British Embassy in your country or check the U.K. Government (Home Office) web-site: www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk .

TERMS & CONDITIONS/SCHOOL RULES

During the course, students are obliged to follow the school rules and regulations that are in place for the safety and well being of the students and the school staff responsible for them. The school rules are clearly explained and a copy is given to the students on their first day of school. A copy of the school rules can be sent to you on request. Full details are printed on the back of the enrolment form.



PISCES



Summer Courses for 12 to 17 year olds

RECOMMENDED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

LUGGAGE

One suitcase and one small item of hand luggage. Please check the maximum weight allowance with the airline.

When packing your luggage for your stay in England, please ensure that each item of luggage is clearly labelled with your name and home address.

CLOTHING

For daytime and evening, you will need at least 3 complete changes of clothing. We would recommend that you include a selection from the following items.










GENERAL: Jeans, T-shirts, Trousers, Warm Jumper/Jacket Waterproof Jacket/Coat, Underwear, Socks, Nightwear, Baseball Cap/Sun Hat.

SPORTS: Shorts, T-shirts, Jogging Trousers, Sweat Shirt, Swimsuit/Swimming Shorts and Trainers.

EVENINGS: Smart Trousers/ Jeans, Skirts/ Dresses, Shirts/Blouses, and Warm/Waterproof Jacket.

It is essential to bring clothes that are suitable for the afternoon sports and activities. SPORTS CLOTHES must include sports shoes (trainers) and swimwear. Otherwise, you will not be able to take part in the afternoon activity programme.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

-  Rucksack/bag for school, sports and excursions (to hold a file, pens, sports clothes and packed lunch).
-  Notebook/writing pad, pencils and pens for classes.
-  Toiletries - eg toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, hairbrush/comb and sun protection cream/lotion (very important for students with pale skin)
-  Sports/beach towel.
-  Small umbrella.
-  Camera (optional)
-  Hairdryer (optional)
-  Sunglasses (optional)
-  Adapter plug for electrical items

POCKET MONEY

We would recommend a maximum of £75.00 pocket money per week for small purchases such as postcards, souvenirs, soft drinks etc. The currency in the U.K. is £ (pounds) sterling. The school operates a student bank for the safe keeping of pocket money, passports and flight tickets. The student bank is open Monday to Friday from 12.30 to 13.30.

84-86 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0HA, England
Tel: 0044 (0)1202 744700 Fax: 0044 (0)1202 716266 E-mail: office@wessexacademy.co.uk

Directors: Mrs. Kim Doran & Mr. Andrew Doran