

Information for Young Learners

Homestay



We hope you will enjoy your stay in England!

This booklet is designed to prepare you for your time in GEOS-LTC International College. Please read it carefully to help us make your stay enjoyable. Remember that we are here to help you with any problems you might have no matter how big or small they are.

THE COLLEGE

GEOS-LTC International College is a part of GEOS, an international network of schools spread across Europe, Asia, North America and Oceania. Established as a school in 1954, LTC is housed in the Duke of Devonshire's former home, Compton Place which is an 18th Century mansion standing in its own park of 13 hectares.

For more information on the college, please visit <http://www.geos-ltc.com>

EASTBOURNE

Sheltered by Beachy Head, the town is a popular holiday destination and has more than four million visitors every year. Having won many awards for its gardens and its beach, Eastbourne is one of the finest resorts on the South Coast and the ideal place to come for a break or to study.

For more information on Eastbourne, please visit <http://www.visiteastbourne.com/>

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BEFORE ARRIVAL

Please send us (info@geos-ltc.com)

1. Your travel arrangements. Whether you have requested a taxi or are making your own way, we need to know to book your taxi (if applicable) and prepare your room. Please remember to tell us if you are travelling unaccompanied as you will need a different confirmation from us.
2. Your permission and medical consent forms. You can find them on our website http://www.geos-ltc.com/student_info.html

WHAT TO BRING

DEPOSIT MONEY

Please bring with you £10 for a deposit for your room and locker keys. If you wish to use our towel, you will need another £5 for a deposit.

POCKET MONEY

No doubt you will want to buy snacks, send postcards, and buy souvenirs, etc. If you want to know how much you might need, please contact us, we will be happy to suggest the amount.

CLOTHES

England is usually 20-27°C in the summer during the day but can be cool in the evening, and sometimes it rains. Please bring casual summer clothes, a good jacket / raincoat, trainers, pullovers, swimming costume and a towel if you want to go swimming

LEARNING MATERIALS

Pens, pencils etc, and possibly a highlighter pen, a good bilingual dictionary, either a book or an electronic one. But don't use it too often in class or you will miss what's happening in the lesson!

TOILETRIES

Bring soap, shampoo and everything you need for washing and having showers. Please bring towels too including one for the swimming pool. You can wash your clothes here every week using a coin-operated washing machine.

VALUABLES

We can keep your money, passport and travel documents in the school safe for you. But please do not bring anything expensive. Also please charge your mobile phone up before coming to the UK as you may want to contact your parents immediately. You must get travel insurance in case things get lost. Please see www.geos-ltc.com/Insurance.htm for details of the insurance we recommend.

WHEN YOU TRAVEL

If you are travelling without adults:

- Your parents should ask the airline to look after you.
- Let us arrange an airport transfer for you. We will take you safely from the airport to GEOS-LTC and back to the airport at the end of your course.
- We will give you a letter authorising the taxi company to pick you up and also send the emergency numbers. Show them to the airline staff. The taxi driver will have a copy of the letter.

When you come out of the Arrivals, please wait there. Do not go shopping!

The taxi driver will be waiting for you and will carry a sign, which says GEOS-LTC and YOUR NAME. If the taxi is not there after 25-30 minutes, ask someone at the Information desk and they will telephone the taxi company or the school for you.

“DIRECT TRAVEL TAXIS”

+44 1323 484 444

GEOS-LTC International College

+44 1323 72 77 55 (office)

+44 79 85 34 34 40 (emergency number)

DO NOT LEAVE THE INFORMATION DESK OR THE AIRPORT UNTIL THE DIRECT TRAVEL TAXI DRIVER ARRIVES.

1. If your driver does not arrive at the meeting point within 20 minutes of your arrival, please call GEOS-LTC emergency number. The taxi will normally wait for 2 hours after the flight has landed. Please do not go shopping or to a café at the airport. This is the easiest way to miss your driver.
2. If you delayed by the Immigration or Customs, please tell them to give your taxi driver a message, so that they will wait for you.
3. If you don't arrive on time, we will only refund your money if you tell us about it 24 hours before. For unannounced arrivals or changes to pre-arranged bookings, the only alternative transfer option may be to arrange a taxi transfer or a shuttle bus to your GEOS LTC accommodation at your own expense.
4. **Please note that the school is not open at weekends, so any changes to flight details, transfer cancellations or any other requests connected to your arrival must be received by 11am British Time on the Friday before you are due to arrive.**
5. Failure to advise GEOS LTC of excess luggage could result in the transfer company not being able to accommodate the extra luggage.
6. **Please note that if you are travelling unaccompanied and booked “an unaccompanied minor service” with your airline, you must tell us at least 48 hours prior to your arrival. If you have not got the correct documents from us, your airline might not allow you to travel.**

HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

- Let us know if you have any allergies or medical conditions before you arrive.
- Going out in the evenings:
 - Students age 13-15 must not go out after 21.00
 - Students age 16-17 must not go out after 23.00

If you go out, you must tell your host family where you are going and what time you will be back.

- If you wish to move host family, you must tell us one week before or pay one week's money.
- You will receive homestay information profiles including photos of the families before you arrive.

Travelling to school

Your host family will take you to school on the first day.

At the school you will be given a map so you can find your way around Eastbourne.

Questions to ask on your first day

Can you show me how to lock the house?

What time do you leave for work in the morning?

What time is dinner?

How long can I spend in the shower? What is a good time to have a shower?

What happens if I need to wash my clothes?

Where should I store my suitcase?

What are your house rules?

Your room

It is your responsibility to keep your room neat and tidy.

Do not smoke in your room or in the house.

Do not keep food in your room. It will attract bugs and mice.

Good manners in England

English people say "please", "thank you" and "excuse me" more than most countries. Don't forget to do the same or people will think you are impolite.

Food and meals

Your family will give breakfast and dinner every day. You will also have lunch at the weekends. The food will be mostly English dishes. Be open-minded and try new foods.

Tell your family if there is any food you do not like or cannot eat.

Breakfast: English people often eat cereal, fruit, toast or yogurt.

Lunch: English people often eat sandwiches, leftovers, fruit and vegetables.

Dinner: English people eat a variety of cuisines. There is often a main course and sometimes a dessert.

Table manners

It is polite to clear your dishes off the table after dinner.

It is good manners to eat with your mouth closed and to eat quietly (slurping is bad manners).

Feel free to ask questions and practise conversation at dinner time.

Say "thank you" when someone serves you food or drink.

Ask your family if you want more food or drink.

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The bathroom

In most houses, you will share the bathroom with other members of the family and/or other students.

English people usually shower once a day.

Most family members take a 5-10 minute shower.

Wet towels should be hung up when you are finished.

Laundry

Your host family will do the washing for you (usually, once a week).

Telephone

Check with your host family if you can use the telephone.

You must pay for all the phone calls you make in your homestay.

It is best to use a phone card for all phone calls. You can buy them at the college.

Internet Access

It may not be possible for your host family to give you internet access at home. In this case you can use the student computers at the college. We also have a wireless connection if you bring your own laptop. Computers with internet access are also available in Eastbourne Library and various Internet Cafés.

Curfew

The curfew time for 13-15 year olds is 21.00, for 16-17 year olds is 23.00.

Eastbourne Borough Council does not allow students under 18 to be out after 23.00 hours.

Going out with your family

Joining family activities is one of the best parts of homestay life.

If you are asked out to the cinema, to a concert or sightseeing, you should offer to pay.

Changing Your Booking

You must give the accommodation officer and your host family notice if you want to make changes to your homestay:

Move out: A minimum of 1 week's notice to your host family and the accommodation officer.

Please also give us at least 1 week's notice if you want to extend your stay.

Accidental Damage

If you damage something in the house, you will have to pay for it. LTC cannot be held responsible.

Problems in your homestay

Our families are very carefully selected and most students have a great time in their homestay. If you are not happy, we can help. It is very important to talk to the accommodation officer if you are unhappy.

It is important to talk to your host family if you do not understand the rules.

If you can't resolve the problem with your host family, talk to the Homestay Officer.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Please click here http://www.geos-ltc.com/student_info.html to find a copy of “**Young Learner Social Summer Programme 2010**”

Please note that you must participate in all the excursions and afternoon activities. If your parents signed your permission form saying that you can go out on your own then you may miss evening activities. However, Wednesday and Saturday excursions are obligatory.

CONTACT NUMBERS

You can phone home from the college. You can buy a telephone card here to make cheaper phone calls home. Not all cards work on our phones. Also your parents can phone you on these numbers:

+44 1323 722 485

+44 1323 747 760

PLEASE NOTE THAT GEOS-LTC STAFF NEVER ANSWER THESE PHONES SO YOU MUST ARRANGE A TIME FOR YOUR PARENTS TO CALL YOU AND WAIT BY THE PHONE.

The best times to phone are
13:30-14:00 (after lunch)
17:00 – 18:00 (before dinner)
20:30 – 21:30 (before bed)
Parents should not phone during class times 09:00 – 12:30 hours.

GRAFFITI AND DAMAGE

GEOS-LTC International College is a historic building. Please help us look after it. Students who damage the building or leave graffiti must pay for repairs.

MEAL TIMES

The kitchen is open from 7am until 7pm. The meal times are as follows:

08.00 – breakfast (*for residential students only*)

12.30 – lunch

18.00 – dinner (*for residential students only*)

Please note that neither group leaders nor students are allowed in the kitchen for insurance reasons.

WRISTBANDS

Please note that all Young Learners are required to wear wristbands at all times.

They have dual purpose

- to act as meal tickets so our kitchen staff know that you don't have to pay..
- to act as security in case you get lost as they have the name of the college and the contact numbers printed on them

You will get it in the welcome pack when you arrive. They are made of soft plastic and are very comfortable to wear. Once fastened, they cannot be removed unless cut with scissors.

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Please note that there will be a charge of £5 to replace a wristband (if you are staying with us for more than 2 weeks, you may need a replacement through natural wear and tear, in which case it will be free of charge).

REGULATIONS

GEOS-LTC is a friendly place without many regulations, but our rules are very important:

- You can only go out on your own (not with LTC staff) if your parents say “YES” in writing. Please ask your parents to either email or fax the permissions form to us before you arrive to the college.
- When you go out, you must tell us where you are going and when you will be back. There is a special book in the Welfare Office where you must write when / where you are going. You must come back on time.
- No boys in the girls’ bedrooms. No girls in the boys’ bedrooms.
- You must attend all lessons on time. If you are ill you must tell either the Welfare staff or your teacher.
- No smoking in the building
- Excursions on Wednesdays and Saturdays are compulsory.

GENERAL INFORMATION

STUDENT CARD

Keep your student card with you at all times. It has all the information and telephone numbers you need on it.

INTERNET

We offer free wireless connection if you bring your laptop with you. Young Learners can use our computers for free after 17.00.

TRAFFIC

Remember we drive on the left so be careful when crossing the road. Look right first, then left.

MONEY

We can keep your money and passports in a school safe for you. Please do not forget to collect them before departure.

ELECTRICITY

Remember our system is different as we use 3-pin plugs. You can get an adapter from local shops.

WEATHER

The weather in England can be rather changeable. It is always wise to bring an umbrella and a raincoat regardless of the time of the year you come! For the most up-to-date information on local weather click on this link

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/> and put our postcode in “BN21 1EH”

FEELING ILL


Let us know if you need a doctor or a dentist and we will make an appointment for you. You will have to pay to see a doctor. The current charge is £45 per visit (excluding prescriptions). Everyone must pay to see a dentist and it is very expensive.

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FIRST AID

We have qualified First Aiders in the college who deal with medical emergencies on the premises. Look out for the staff badges with a red cross  on them.

You will get staff photos in your welcome pack. The First Aiders will be highlighted there with a red cross under their name.

INSURANCE

We recommend that all students take out an insurance before coming to study in the UK. Please click here <http://www.geos-ltc.com/Insurance.htm>

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The emergency number for Fire, Police or Ambulance in England is 999.

The college emergency number is 07985343440

PROBLEMS

Sometimes little problems can seem very big. Let us know if there is anything you are worried about, we are always happy to help.

USEFUL LINKS

Advice on studying in the UK

<http://www.educationuk.org/>

http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/student/information_sheets.php#after_entry

Eastbourne

<http://www.visiteastbourne.com/>

Eastbourne maps

<http://www.eastbourne.org/maps/>

Eastbourne buses

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/eastsussex/>

National Rail

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

Heathrow

<http://www.heathrowairport.com>

Gatwick

<http://www.gatwickairport.com/>

Stansted

<http://www.stanstedairport.com/>

Remember if there is anything else you need to know, please contact us.

And the main thing-

LEARN ENGLISH & ENJOY YOUR STAY!