



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS8 7QG

Tel: 01543 452886

Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Web: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk

Principal: Mrs A Lloyd

19th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Belgium Music Tour: Tuesday 16th September - Friday 19th September 2025

We are delighted to announce that we are running a Music Tour to Belgium in September 2025. This is a concert tour, meaning that we will be performing at venues across Belgium during this tour. We hope that this trip will create lifelong memories for our musicians and give them the opportunity to share their musical skills in some unforgettable concert venues.

We are anticipating that the trip will be between £450-£500 but we are waiting for final confirmation.

The costs and trip include:

- 3 night's full board accommodation in Bruges
- Travel (by coach and ferry or the Euro Tunnel)
- Full board from the evening of the trip until lunchtime of the last day (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners)
- 2 concerts in Bruges and Ghent
- A visit to Ypres to experience the Last Post ceremony and the opportunity to perform 2 songs at the Menin Gate
- A tour of a Belgian Chocolate Factory in Bruges
- A day in Bruges touring the city and visiting a series of local landmarks
- A visit to a castle in Ghent with time to explore the city
- Comprehensive travel insurance

The costs don't include:

- Your child's spending money
- Snacks in between meals
- Lunch on the outgoing journey on Tuesday 16th September 2025
- Dinner on the return journey on Friday 19th September 2025

Year 10 & 11 Students

Students currently in Year 10 & 11 **will** be able to apply for a place on this visit. We are aware that by this stage, you will be attending new settings for college/sixth form, however, we would love you to join us on this tour and we will write to your colleges/sixth forms to request permission for you to join us for this educational visit.

We have places for 50 pupils and musicians from all year groups are welcome to attend.

We are likely to receive a large amount of interest in this trip, so it is important that you submit an expression of interest using the following form as soon as possible:

<https://forms.office.com/e/pqqMtT9bCP>

This is simply an expression of interest form. It **does not** guarantee your child a place on the trip.

To participate in the trip, it is important that your child's behaviour follows and has followed our academy behaviour policy before and during the trip. It is important that your child has good attendance to participate. The academy's behaviour policy is found on our website.



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Due to the nature of this visit, we will also have to take into account your child's commitment to the music department and contributions to the ensembles we will be taking on tour. We will need the right combination of instruments for our band and voice types for our choir, so we will take this into account when offering places, if we are over the allocated number of places. We will also be considering your child's commitment to rehearsals, concerts and enrichment in the music and performing arts department.

We will be unable to take any child on the trip if we have serious concerns about their behaviour. We reserve the right to withdraw a student from the trip right until the departure day, if there is transgression of our behaviour policy or a serious cause of concern, which means that it would not be appropriate for the student to participate. Staff leading the trip have a very significant responsibility in leading and managing a trip abroad. Furthermore, if your child decides to discontinue with their instrument lessons, or their attendance at rehearsals and peripatetic lessons declines, we will have to reconsider their place on the visit. This concert tour requires our students to be performing at their very best and therefore, we need students in rehearsals to ensure they are ready for that.

During the days in Belgium, your child will spend blocks of time with other peers under remote supervision, which means that they will be trusted to behave appropriately without academy staff directly supervising them. In agreeing for your child to participate on the trip, you are agreeing to remote supervision.

There will be a code of behaviour given to parents/carers and students in advance of the visit. This code is designed to reassure parents and to ensure that students have a clear understanding of the standards of behaviour expected of them while on the trip. As always, students on visits are responsible for upholding the excellent reputation of Brownhills Ormiston Academy in the community and in this case, in two countries. Our academy's behaviour policy is still applicable during a school visit.

It is important that your child has a valid passport (there must be at least a year left before it expires when we go on tour) and has a valid EHIC or GHIC card (free to apply for online). There will be pre-visit meetings that you must attend. We will release more information about these in due course.

We will be releasing payment plan information in due course. Please ensure you meet these deadlines.

If you have to cancel your child's participation in the trip, you may lose the balance that you have paid off. If your child is unable to go due to sickness or an unforeseen reason, you may lose the balance of the trip that you have paid off.

If your child transfers to another school or education provision before the trip, they will not be able to participate in the trip and you may lose the balance of the trip that you have paid off.

We cannot wait to get started on this fantastic experience for the music students at Brownhills. In order to make sure this trip can go ahead, please reply to the expression of interest form as soon as possible and please get in touch with Mr Pierce by email if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mr J Pierce

Head of Music, Performing Arts & Literacy



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