



Bell
EST 1955

Autumn Explorer

Bell St Albans

12 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2025

1 - 3 WEEKS



Autumn Explorer

Minimum staff to student ratio

1:6

Course summary

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Age | 11-17 |
| Min. language level | All levels |
| Course length | 1 - 3 weeks |
| Location | Bell St Albans |
| Start dates | Sunday 12 October Sunday 19 October Sunday 26 October |

Course components 1 week

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Lessons | 15 hours |
| Study tours | 1 - 2 days |
| Electives | 9 hours |
| Other activities | 9 hours |



Electives

Students choose 2 electives per week. Sample electives include:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Art and crafts | Volleyball |
| Board games | Football |
| British literature | Health and fitness |
| Cricket | Handball |
| Dance | Journalism |
| Dodgeball | Orienteering |
| Drama | Rounders |
| Film & photography | |

Overview

Our Autumn Explorer course gives students the opportunity to discover British culture while developing their English language skills, through project-based learning activities and interactive learning - both inside and outside the classroom.

On this course, students will:

- Develop their English in all four areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Practise new vocabulary, pronunciation and improve their grammar structures, as appropriate to their level
- Become confident, independent learners with essential 21st century life skills like: communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and cultural awareness
- Make friends with students from a diverse mix of countries across the globe

Our approach

English lessons

English lessons include projects that are designed around the school's weekly theme. Small groups of students work together on their projects based on the language knowledge and skills development needs.

Activity programme

Students at Bell 'learn by doing', so the activity programme is an integral part of the course and allows young learners to practise and develop what they have learnt in lessons. Our afternoon activities and electives are designed to improve communication and confidence while developing academic, creative and active skills.

All Autumn Explorer students will also enjoy a wide variety of whole-school activities, such as games, competitions, discos and shows.

Who is this for?

Young learners who want to combine English language study with activities and educational day trips and excursions.

Study Tours

Students take part in three full-day study tours every two weeks to UK destinations.

- **London** – see Big Ben, 10 Downing Street, Horse Guards Parade, Covent Garden and visit a museum.
- **Cambridge** – Visit the historical city of Cambridge with a walking tour of it's world-famous colleges, and punting on the River Cam.
- **Oxford** – Famous across the world for its university and history, this beautiful city is exciting for students to explore. Visit the Ashmolean Museum too, the oldest public museum in the UK.

Sample Timetable

| | Sunday 12 October | Monday 13 October | Tuesday 14 October | Wednesday 15 October | Thursday 16 October | Friday 17 October | Saturday 18 October |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 - 08:45 |  Arrivals & Activities | Breakfast | | | | | |
| 08:45 - 09:00 | | Morning Meeting | | | | | |
| 09:00 - 10:30 | | English Test/ English Lesson | English Lesson | Full Day Study Tour LONDON | English Lesson | Course Presentation | Departures or Full Day Excursion |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | | Break | | | Break | | OXFORD |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | | Orientation/ English Lesson | English Lesson | River Cruise | English Lesson | English Lesson | Ashmolean Museum |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | | Lunch | | Walking Tour | Lunch | | Walking Tour |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | | Electives | Electives | Shopping | Electives | Electives | Shopping |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | | Break | |  | Break | |  |
| 15:30 - 17:00 | | English Lesson | Electives | | Electives | English Lesson | |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | | House Time | | | House Time | | |
| 18:00 - 19:30 | Dinner and free time | | | | | | |
| 19:30 - 21:00 | Welcome Activities | Sharks vs Tigers | Bell's Got Talent | Popcorn Premier | Mini Olympics | Black and White Disco | Pamper Night |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21:00 - 21:30 | House Meeting | | | | | | |

Project-based learning

Explore the themes and topics

Project themes have been intentionally designed for students and teachers to take their project in a direction that best meets the group's needs and motivations.

This means that every group of students will learn something different with each student receiving a personalised learning experience. This unique aspect of our Explorer courses ensures they are consistently motivating and engaging, and students often return year after year.

Develop language skills

The content of lessons, study tours and activities are designed with a focus on the project theme, giving the students a holistic experience which accelerates their learning.

Create a personal response

Each project has a theme which begins with a central guiding question to start the students on their learning journey. This guiding question focuses the project and the students work collaboratively towards the production of a tangible project outcome which often combines each of the different aspects of the course.

Practise everywhere

Project-based learning on an Explorer programme is a fully-integrated approach to language learning that provides our students with lots of cross-curricular opportunities for learning everywhere, both inside and outside the classroom.

This means that every group of students will learn something different with each student receiving a personalised learning experience. This unique aspect of our Explorer courses ensures they are consistently motivating and engaging, and students often return year after year.

Present at the end-of-course show

The end of the Explorer project gives students the chance to share their learning experiences with each other in the form of a course show (presentation).



Course includes:



Tuition, study materials and course portfolio



Access to sports facilities



Free internet access



Residential accommodation and all meals



Comprehensive supervision by qualified staff



Free laundry service



A full programme of educational and social activities



Transfers to and from designated airports/stations on scheduled arrival and departure days *



Comprehensive insurance



A full programme of study tours

* For arrival and departures between 10am to 5pm or advised train times



WEEK 1:

I ♥ London




SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

This project marks the beginning of our autumn programme and welcomes students by inviting them to explore British culture through the lens of the River Thames. Students will observe the many boroughs that form the heart of this multicultural city, each with its own unique identity. Through the lens of diversity and global influence, students will explore how London's different communities come together to shape its vibrant cultural landscape. Students will develop cross-cultural understanding skills by focusing on the themes of identity and diversity.

Example learning outcomes

- Students will learn key vocabulary related to London landmarks, British culture, and travel experiences and learn how to use comparative and superlative forms for comparing and contrasting lifestyle in London to their home countries.
- Students will develop functional skills e.g. persuasive writing and speaking skills to create promotional materials for travel-related products.
- Students will develop their cross-cultural understanding and communication skills.

Topics may include:

-  Sociology
-  History and Geography
-  Cultural Studies

Types of activities could include:

- Research a specific London borough, creating a profile that highlights its cultural diversity.
- Compare and contrast the cosmopolitan city of London to your own.
- Carry out group discussions and debates on topics such as British traditions, etiquette, and cultural diversity.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- River Cruise

Excursion: Oxford

- Ashmolean Museum





WEEK 2:

A Wonderful World




SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

This project is about understanding the natural world, the diversity of life on Earth, and the urgent need for environmental conservation. By visiting the Natural History Museum, students will explore the relationship between humans and the environment, learning about ecosystems, species diversity, and how human activities are affecting the planet. Students will be encouraged to reflect on how we can protect the flora and fauna of our world and shape a more sustainable future.

Example learning outcomes

- ✓ The students will learn vocabulary to talk and/or write about the topic of nature and conservation, e.g. biodiversity, ecosystem, extinction, and sustainability and grammatical structures to talk about cause and effects e.g. First Conditional.
- ✓ Students will develop functional language to be able to carry out discussions, make proposals, suggestions and/or give advice.
- ✓ Students will develop their cross-cultural understanding and problem-solving skills.

Topics may include:

-  Biology and Ecology
-  Environmental Science
-  Geography

Types of activities could include:

- Make an estimate of your own carbon footprint and brainstorm ways to reduce it.
- Listen to a documentary about eco-friendly habitats.
- Write a proposal outlining a creative and innovative solution to improve recycling efforts in your community.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- Natural History Museum

Excursion: Cambridge

- Punting





WEEK 3:

Spooky Festivals

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER

As the autumn programme draws to a close, this project takes students deep into the haunted history of the Tower of London. Students will learn about chilling ghost stories and eerie legends while keeping an eye out for medieval queens, Roman soldiers, and shadowy wizards said to haunt the Tower's grounds. They will explore how different cultures honour the dead and consider why ghost stories persist throughout history. By examining folklore, supernatural beliefs, and historical mysteries, students will develop a deeper understanding of how history and legend intertwine.

Example learning outcomes

- Students will learn vocabulary to talk and/or write about festivals, ghost stories and historical figures e.g. celebration, tradition, customs, rituals, heritage, legend, haunted, supernatural, and folklore. They will learn to use past tenses accurately when recounting historical events and descriptive language to describe their festival e.g. adjectives and adverbs.
- Students will develop functional language to express preferences and make suggestions.
- Students will develop communication and cross-cultural skills.

Types of activities could include:

- Share ghost stories from your own culture with another student.
- Write a letter from the perspective of a historical ghost haunting the Tower of London
- Research a notable historical figure associated with the Tower of London, such as Anne Boleyn or Lady Jane Grey..

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- Tower of London

Topics may include:

- History
- Literature
- Cultural Studies





Bell St Albans

Discover the English language through active, academic and creative activities in a beautiful and friendly school - all year round.

This elegant Victorian building, with its traditional courtyard garden, is set within 60 acres of English countryside, providing a safe and peaceful environment.

Courses available:






Winter Explorer

Spring Explorer








Summer Explorer

Autumn Explorer




Sample educational activities

-  Arts and crafts
-  British sports
-  Football
-  Journalism
-  Health and fitness

Facilities

-  Bright, spacious classrooms, many with interactive whiteboards
-  Free wireless internet
-  Dining room
-  Art room
-  Disabled access/facilities
-  On-site sports fields
-  Peaceful, countryside setting

Accommodation

-  Twin rooms and dormitories
-  Separate accommodation blocks for boys and girls
-  A dedicated houseparent in every boarding house

Please note, we are unable to guarantee any room requests as the room allocation can change from programme to programme

Course fees

Our course fees are fully-inclusive, including tuition, accommodation, airport transfers and learning materials - so everything is taken care of before your student arrives.

| WEEK | THEME | ARRIVAL DATE | DEPARTURE DATE | COURSE LENGTH | | | |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| 1 | I ♥ London | Sunday 12 October | Saturday 18 October | 3 WEEKS | 2 WEEKS | | 1 WEEK |
| 2 | A Wonderful World | Sunday 19 October | Saturday 25 October | | | | 1 WEEK |
| 3 | Spooky Festivals | Sunday 26 October | Saturday 1 November | | | 2 WEEKS | 1 WEEK |
| | | | | TOTAL (£) | 3,300 | 2,200 | 2,200 1,100 |

* In addition to course fees, all bookings are subject to a £95 registration fee

