

17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Y9 Science trip to Euro Space Centre, Belgium Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Weds 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

A trip has been organised for Year 9 students during our summer enrichment week to develop their science capital and take part in exciting space focused activities designed to fit the specific age of our students.

The Euro Space Centre in Belgium is a unique European educational centre dedicated to space travel and learning about galaxies and the planets of our solar system. This fascinating complex offers training courses, workshops and numerous exhibitions, where participants can experience an array of interactive and visual displays, with a huge emphasis on 'Making Science Fun'.

With the equivalent of two and a half days at the Centre, students will engage in interactive activities which simulate space travel, such as the zero-gravity wall, the multi-axis chair and the moon walk; learn about the challenges astronauts face in performing simple everyday activities in space; gain a deeper understanding of astronomy, the history of space conquest and the role of the International Space Station; engage with their team in the simulated launch and landing of a US Space Shuttle; and have the opportunity to design, build and launch a rocket.



The students will be travelling by coach from school early Sunday morning, arriving in Belgium Sunday afternoon, and will depart from the centre Wednesday morning, returning to Roundwood Park on Wednesday evening. The centre offers full board, including three meals a day. Insurance is also included.

The unique centre consists of a connected accommodation building with multi-bedded dormitory rooms. Each room has private showers and allocated WC facilities. The site also boasts 2 restaurants (where all meals are taken), a souvenir shop, cinema, numerous classrooms and ample outside space for evening activities. Students **will also enjoy** a torchlight tour around the impressive nearby Bouillon Caste, a Cave visit and a stop at a Belgian chocolate factory and shop on the way home..

More information about the space centre can be found on this website:  
<https://www.eurospacecenter.be/en/>

This exciting trip is *entirely optional* and, while it enriches the learning experience is not essential.

The cost of the trip will be approximately **£715-£725 per student**, depending on final numbers. In accordance with the Governors' policy on charging, must be met by voluntary contributions. We do not want cost to be a barrier. We work closely with James Marshall foundation who can provide funding for students with a low family income, living in Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Kimpton, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate. You can apply online for a funding grant by clicking here: <https://www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk/apply-for-funding.html>.

If you live outside of these areas and need funding for this trip, please contact Miss Manton in the finance office ([finance@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:finance@roundwoodpark.co.uk)) no later than Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 23.

**To secure your son/daughter's place on this trip, please accept this trip invitation by logging onto your Operoo account and submitting your response no later than Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> November 23. You will also need to pay a non-refundable deposit of £175 via ParentPay no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis based on the time/date of your Operoo response. If this trip is oversubscribed, students who are unsuccessful in securing a space, will be placed on a waiting list and deposits will be returned.**

Further payments will be due as follows:

- Instalment £175 due by Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January 24
- Instalment £175 due by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 24
- Final payment £190(TBC) due by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 24

#### **SEND Support for this trip**

If your child has additional needs and you are concerned about their attendance on this trip, then please get in touch with Mrs Hall at the earliest convenience. We are fully committed to ensuring that all of our students can participate in trips, regardless of their individual circumstances and will provide support and reasonable adjustments as required, to make this possible.

**Entry requirements** – Students will need a passport and EHIC or GHIC card for this trip. Passports must be valid for at least 3 months after the travel dates. You can apply for a free GHIC card [here](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). Please check the entry requirements for Belgium (and France as we will transit through France) at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that students' documentation is valid for travel and entry requirements are fulfilled.

Please be aware that any cancellation must be put in writing and sent to the Finance Office, and that parents will be liable for any additional cancellation charges incurred. The school reserves the right to withdraw from the trip any student whose behavioural record at school proves inconsistent with the safe running of the trip.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Jacquinot & Miss C Manton