

Sparsholt College

Summer 2025

Pre-Arrival Guidebook



Summer Camp

Winchester, UK





Founders David Brown and Robert Darell meeting HM King Charles III again in May 2014



Dear Group Leader, thank you for joining us in the UK this year. At Oxford International Junior Programmes, our aim is to provide young students from all over the world with a safe, fun, friendly and structured environment in which to improve their knowledge of the English language.

We are one of the top providers of junior programmes in the UK and a unique British Council accredited education provider. Oxford International Junior Programmes is part of the Oxford International Education Group (OIEG) which was founded in 1991 as ISIS Education and Travel by David Brown and Robert Darell. Oxford International has grown to be one of the top 10 businesses sponsored by the Prince's Trust after it provided OIEG with a £5,000 loan.

OIEG now offers a huge range of university pathways, spring, summer and year round academic programmes and educational tours. Our programmes have grown steadily in size and popularity and we now run 12 centres in the UK; 8 Residential and 4 Year Round Schools, plus 6 centres in North America welcoming over 10,000 students.

We create life enhancing learning experiences that help students worldwide to develop personally and professionally and that enrich their future opportunities.

The Airport

On arrival at the airport, you will be met by one of our Activity Leaders who will welcome you to the UK. They will be wearing a red T-shirt or hoodie with the OIEG logo so you can easily recognise them.

The Activity Leader will accompany you by coach to your centre. During the journey to your centre, the Activity Leader will give you an optional booklet, your activity programme, a welcome letter from the management team, registration forms, lanyards, and student ID cards. You will also receive the rooming configuration allocated to your group on the coach so you can begin to organise the students into bedrooms. When you arrive at your centre, a member of the management team will be waiting to greet you.

Arriving at Sparsholt College

When you arrive at Sparsholt College you will be shown to your accommodation. The bedrooms are single or twin ensuite and are arranged in flats of 6 to 8. Most of the blocks also have a communal kitchen area or lounge where the students can relax in the evening.

At Oxford International Junior Programmes we aim to room your students in line with your needs. If you would like to keep your group together (regardless of gender) please let us know in advance. It may also be possible to keep your group together in the same building but split the group across different floors/corridors by gender. If there are students in your group who are a different gender from yourself and you are the only group leader, those students will be supervised by a member of OIEG staff. Once at the accommodation you will be shown your bedrooms and given the key/card for the accommodation block. One of the OIEG staff will escort your group on a tour of the campus and highlight all the key locations you will use during your stay. Please note if you arrive on campus during the morning there may be the possibility that your room is still being cleaned. If this is the case we will show you to the nearest common room where your group can relax.



Sparsholt College

Sparsholt College is a Further Education and Higher Education college that covers primarily countryside-based subjects.

The college originated as Hampshire's first Farm School in 1899 in Old Basing, near Basingstoke. Just before World War One, it moved to its current location, Sparsholt. It is now one of the largest agricultural colleges in the country and it has its own farms. Sparsholt College is located 4 miles away from the historic city of Winchester, which was the medieval capital of England for centuries until the Normans moved the capital to London. There are sites around Winchester that date back to the Iron Age!

The major landmark is Winchester Cathedral, one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. Winchester Castle is well known for its Great Hall, where the famous King Arthur's Round Table remains, it has hung on the wall since 1463!



About the Centre

Sparsholt College

Westley Lane, Sparsholt, Winchester SO21 2NF

Postal Address:

Oxford International Education Group
c/o Sparsholt College
Westley Lane, Sparsholt Hampshire, SO21 2NF
Please ensure the letter/package is clearly labelled with Oxford International Education Group and the student's name.

Wi-Fi access:

Wi-Fi is available across the campus and is available to group leaders in their accommodation.
Payphone access is available onsite.

Meal Times:

**Subject to confirmation*

Breakfast: 07:30 – 08:30

Lunch: 12:30 – 13:30

Dinner: 18:00–19:30

Students should clear away their food trays at the end of their meal. There will be a lunch/dinner rota for all groups.

Shop/Café:

The shop carries a wide range of stock which caters for most students' daily requirements. The shop is located nearby the accommodation and is open from 8.30am to 1.30pm Mon-Fri and weekends when onsite 8am to 8pm. The shop will be accepting cards and contactless payments only.

Security:

There are university staff that live onsite in the case of any out of hours emergency.

Laundry:

**Laundry prices subject to confirmation*

The launderette is located next to Dean building and is available at times to suit. The price of a wash and a dry depends on the size of the wash and the length of dry, but approximately wash costs £5 and a dry £3. Bed linen will be washed once a week by the College laundry. Refer to the Centre Manager for exact details.

Local Transport:

Winchester trains go direct to Waterloo (1h/ 1h 10min). The bus from Sparsholt College to Winchester Rail Station is Route 7 – Stagecoach Bus. The bus reaches the centre of campus at 31 minutes past the hour.

Social Spaces:

The students will have access to the common rooms based in the accommodation during break times and in the evening. Most of the flats in the accommodation have a kitchen area or lounge where groups can meet.

Bank/Post Office:

The nearest banks are in Winchester: Lloyds Bank, 48–49 High St NatWest, 105 High St

The nearest Post Office is also in Winchester: 64, Stoney Lane, Weeke.

Hospital/Doctors:

Nearest Hospital:

Royal Hampshire Hospital, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO22 5DG

Religious Centres:

Anglican: St Bartholomew's, King Alfred Place, SO23 7DF

Roman Catholic: St Peter's Church, Jewry St, SO23 8RY

The nearest Mosque is in Winchester.

Fire Drills:

It is a requirement that at any residential centre fire drills must take place.

During the fire drill, students should leave all their belongings behind and evacuate the building as quickly as possible. Please ensure that all of your students have left their rooms and stand at the designated evacuation point outside. There will then be a roll call. If any students are unaccounted for or the evacuation is too slow, the fire drill will be classed as a 'failure' and will need to be repeated at a later date.

Curfew:

Evening curfew is 10:30pm.

All students must be in their accommodation by this time. They must be in bed with lights off by 10:30pm. We ask that you monitor your own students. If you are on a corridor with other students making noise after this time please report it to the CM.

Deposit:

Please be aware that a **£30 deposit per student will be collected upon arrival** which will be returned at the end of the programme if there is no damage to the rooms or loss of keys etc.

Staff at your Centre

Centre Manager (CM)

The Centre Manager is responsible for the smooth running of the centre. Our Centre Managers are chosen for their experience, professionalism and personalities, and you will have daily contact with them.

Director of Studies (DoS)

The Director of Studies is responsible for the academic management of the centre and ensuring the teaching and learning component of the programme is delivered to the highest possible standards.

Student Support Manager (SSM)

The Student Support Managers look after all of the safeguarding and welfare of the people on-site, including you. They are first aid trained and have knowledge of the local medical services. You will meet with them a few times a week to discuss any concerns.

Excursion Manager (ExM)

The Excursion Manager will be responsible for the complete over-sight and smooth running of the excursions at the centre. You should meet with them at least 2 or 3 times a week to ensure everything is going okay with your programme. They will also be able to help arrange optional excursions and make additional bookings for you.

Activity Manager (AM)

The Activity Manager is responsible for all aspects of the activity programme, ensuring the onsite activities are inspiring, dynamic focused and enjoyable. The AM will lead the team of activity staff.

EFL Teacher/ Senior EFL Teacher

Teaching staff are responsible for planning and delivering lessons from the OIEG Syllabus. Some centres will also have 1 to 2 Senior Teachers who teach 50% of the time and spend the remainder of their time providing academic support to the teachers and DoS.

Activity Leaders (AL)

The Activity Leaders are responsible for running everything outside the lessons! This includes onsite activities, excursions, meal duty supervision and airport transfers.



Excursions

London excursions

London excursions are one of the highlights of the summer programmes and you will visit the city on two occasions. Timing for these excursions are from 08:50 to 18:30 hrs.

Day 1: Westminster photo tour, National Gallery and Covent Garden

Day 2: Visit British Museum, afternoon in London/optional activities

Please note the order of visits may vary and if you have any other places you want to visit, you can speak to the Excursions Manager to arrange a different itinerary. Likewise, if you have purchased the extra package of entrances, these activities will replace one of the above visits.

New for 2025! NEW

Travel cards in London are now included!

You will be able to use public transport to move around London (zones 1-6).

Photo tour in Westminster

New for 2025! NEW

We have adapted the walking tours into photo tours. The students will have the opportunity to visit the Westminster area and see all the famous sites just as before and be given some time to take pictures. Instead of the activity leader delivering a walking tour, they will guide the group around. For the students to learn the facts about what they are visiting, we have planned an interactive evening the day before the visit to London, so students learn about the places they will see prior to the visit so they only have to worry about enjoying their time in London.

Lunch on excursions

At Sparsholt you will receive:

- A mix of packed lunches and meal vouchers during excursions to London. Packed lunches for the excursion to Oxford and the Optional Day.



Oxford Excursion

During your stay at Sparsholt College you will visit Oxford. An Activity Leader will deliver a walking tour of the city centre and students will have some time to explore the city. During their time in Oxford, groups will also visit a College.

This excursion runs from 9am to 4pm (departure time).

Half Day Excursions

During the programme there will be two half days to Winchester. In one of the excursions, students will have the opportunity to visit the Great Hall which was one of the finest surviving aisled halls of the 13th century. Timings for these excursions are from 9am to 12pm or 2pm to 5pm.

What to expect from Group Leaders during excursions:

- Only take photos when advised to do so
- Keep together as a group
- Don't stop for toilet or food breaks without permission
- Stay vigilant of on-coming traffic
- Don't block the pavement or gates
- Walk at a brisk pace
- Wear your lanyard at all times
- Don't talk over the guides
- Ask lots of questions
- Have fun!



Optional Booklet

We love our summer programmes and think they are brilliant as they are but we also know that for some students it is a long journey to travel to the UK.

This booklet contains information about destinations across the whole of the UK and attractions you can visit there. If you would like to supplement your programme by purchasing one of these entrances/excursions (and haven't organised this prior to arriving in the UK) please speak to your Excursion Manager. You should have received the Optional Booklet in your Welcome Pack; if not please also refer to your ExM for more information.

We highly recommend booking in advance to guarantee we can offer the excursions

England

Optional Excursions 2025/26



Musicals

Come and experience theatrical performances presented in many professional theatres, more commonly known as the West End! Along with New York's Broadway theatres, West End theatres are widely considered to represent the highest level of commercial theatre in the English-speaking world. Recommended musicals for groups are the following:

- Wicked** – prices per person from £30.00
- Hercules (NEW for 2025!)** – prices per person from £35.00
- Harry Potter and the Cursed Child** – prices per person from £35.00 each
- Phantom of the Opera** – prices per person from £45.00
- Matilda** – prices per person from £45.00
- Phantom of the Opera** – prices per person from £50.00

Other musicals available, please enquire for prices: Oliver, The Devil Wears Prada, Mrs Doubtfire, Back to the Future, Hamilton, Hades Town and many more!

Please note group prices vary depending on date and availability and the above are for reference only. Contact our team for more information and specific rates for your group.*

Groups at centres outside of London will need to consider a private coach to return to the centre after the musical. Please check with our team for additional costs.

Wicked Official 2-hour workshop

The Wicked Musical Theatre Workshop is designed to introduce students to the many multi-layered performance techniques crucial to performing in the West End.

Following a comprehensive physical and vocal warm-up, participants learn a specially selected song from Wicked, developing their vocal techniques and acting through song with movement and harmonies that can be adapted depending on the age and/or experience of the group.

From £30.00 per student

Onsite Activities

Our Onsite Activities Programme has been carefully planned and designed with all students in mind. During these sessions, we encourage students to challenge themselves individually, as well as being able to work as part of a team, in a fun and friendly way.

The onsite activities are divided into 5 categories that will allow your students to explore different skills, techniques, and talents throughout the programme.

The categories are:

- **Whole campus activities**
- **Sports**
- **Challenges**
- **Workshops**
- **Relaxing activities**

Get ready for an incredible journey filled with laughter, learning, and lasting friendships.

Let the fun begin!

Sign up activities

These sessions will require students to sign up for a specific activity. This process will allow students to choose the activity that best suits them and will help the staff to make sure all students attend the activities. Please make sure you help the team onsite and encourage students to sign up in advance.

Rotation activities

NEW for 2025! NEW

Here, students will participate within a rotation system. This means we will have several engaging activities running at the same time. Divided into groups, students will participate in a few activities for 45 minutes each, therefore experiencing different activities.

What to bring?

We recommend that students bring comfortable sports clothes and trainers for onsite activities. Finally, please ask your group to bring LOTS of energy to participate and engage in all the activities we have to offer!



Sample Programme



Sample Programme - Sparsholt A

Group Name							
Students							
Group Leaders							
Date	Days		Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1-Jul	Tue	Breakfast	Airport: Flight Number: Time:	Lunch	Airport: Flight Number: Time:	Dinner	Campus tour and ice-breaker activities
2-Jul	Wed		Student Induction		Onsite Activities		Welcome Disco
3-Jul	Thu		Lesson 1 - Welcome				
4-Jul	Fri		Lesson 2		Shuttle into Winchester with entrance to Great Hall		Onsite Activities
5-Jul	Sat		Full day excursion to London with Politics and Royalty walking tour		Entrance to National Gallery and Covent Garden		Depart London at 18.30 for extended day
6-Jul	Sun		Lesson 3		Onsite Activities		Karaoke/Lip Sync Battle
7-Jul	Mon		Lesson 4		Onsite Activities		Onsite Activities
8-Jul	Tue		Lesson 5		Lesson 6		Disco
9-Jul	Wed		Full day excursion to Oxford with walking tour of the city		Entrance to an Oxford College		Onsite Activities
10-Jul	Thu		Onsite Activities		Lesson 7		Talent and Fashion Show
11-Jul	Fri		Full day excursion to London with choice of Museum visit		Visit to Hyde Park and shopping on Oxford Street		Depart London at 18.30 for extended day
12-Jul	Sat		Onsite Activities		Lesson 8		British Quiz Night
13-Jul	Sun		Shuttle into Winchester		Lesson 9		Onsite Activities
14-Jul	Mon		Onsite Activities		Lesson 10		Farewell Disco
15-Jul	Tue		Optional Excursion		Optional Excursion		Onsite Activities
16-Jul	Wed		Airport: Flight Number: Time:		Airport: Flight Number: Time:		Airport: Flight Number: Time:
Example activities available at your campus:							
Challenges		Team Challenges, Water Challenges, Build-it Challenge					
Sports		British Sports, Football, Running Club, Summer Olympics, Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis					
Workshops		Self Portrait, Group Mural, Beauty Night, Friendship Bracelets, Fashion Show, Drama.					
Relaxing		Movie Night, Conversation Club, Chill Club (board games).					

**Please note this is only a sample and you should receive your personalised programme before arriving to the UK.*

Group Leader Programme

Group Leader Programme

We appreciate how much work each Group Leader puts into a visit to the UK, and it is important for them to have some time to relax and meet other leaders. The group leader programme is tailored to each centre, at **Sparsholt College** it will be made up of different events throughout the weeks.

With so much history at all of our centres, we want leaders to have a **campus tour** to know more about their location and the history of each site.

Group leaders will be invited to a **traditional English afternoon tea** within the first few days, allowing them some time to chat with each other while enjoying a classic British experience.

A **cheese and wine** evening will also be arranged during one of the evenings for group leaders and senior staff only.

A **Teacher Training Course** is available to all Group Leaders taking part in the programme. You will be able to attend a 3 hour course during your stay. The training is for practicing teachers of English who work with teenagers and want to experience new and enjoyable techniques, materials and activities to help teach the language more creatively.

There will also be **two half day trips**; one to Winchester Town and one to Southampton City and finally, a **movie night** organised for GL's only.

Group Leader Meetings

Group Leader meetings are essential for the smooth running of a residential centre; these are the perfect time to raise any issues you may have. There will be a meeting on your first evening at the centre (or the day after arrival) where you will receive all the essential information about the first few days and will be introduced to all members of Senior Staff.

Information we will need from you at this meeting:

- Student registration forms (a requirement by the British Council)
- Student rooming list (exact room numbers of each child)

Information we will give you at this meeting:

- Centre specific contact details
- Meeting times and points
- GL programme details
- Lunch and dinner rota
- Lessons and excursion procedures

Group Leaders' Responsibilities:

- Attend all meetings with the staff
- Ensure their students are punctual and attend all lessons, excursions and onsite activities
- Supervise students on excursions, in their accommodation and during meal times
- Report any allergies/medical issues to the Centre Manager on arrival at the centre
- Maintain a lively, courteous and friendly atmosphere throughout the whole programme
- Report any issues with the programme/campus whilst in the UK rather than waiting until the group is at home. This way the staff can work together to fix it as soon as possible
- **Have fun!**



Student Packing List

Summer weather can be very unpredictable in the UK. The average daily temperature is 15°C but can go as low as 10°C or as high as 35°C. For this reason, we recommend you encourage your students to come prepared for all occasions and check the predicted weather before departure!

Documents

- Passport and copy of it (email copy to yourself)
- Visa document and copy of it (if required)
- Insurance documents
- A copy of any medication prescriptions in case of emergencies
- UK currency (Pound sterling)
- Debit or credit card
- Visa or ETA (NEW for 2025) Check if you can get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) - GOV.UK NEW

Technology

- Phone/iPod/iPad/Tablet + chargers (we recommend you only bring one of these items)
- Headphones
- Camera and camera charger
- Plug converter/travel adapter (UK 3 pin, 13A, 220V-240V)

Everyday Essentials

- Medication
- Toiletries, washing and sanitary essentials
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Towel
- Hairbrush/comb/hairstyler
- Sleepwear, socks and underwear
- Glasses/contact lens equipment
- Plastic bags for dirty laundry or wet items
- A small padlock to lock valuables
- **MUST BRING Reusable water bottle!**

Onsite Activities

- Tracksuit/jogging pants for sport
- Comfortable trainers

Excursions

- Casual, comfortable clothing
- Umbrella
- Sun protection (cream, spray, lotion)
- Quality rain/wind-proof jacket
- Secure handbag/backpack/travellers wallet
- Sunglasses
- Appropriate footwear for walking

What Not to Pack

- Bedding (bed sheets, pillows)
- Expensive electronics/valuables
- Travel iron (an iron and ironing board will be available)
- Too many clothes
- Do not bring NUT products. No sandwiches, granola bars, treats or other food that contain nuts.



We can only guarantee the carriage of one x1 suitcase and one x1 backpack for airport transfers. If you anticipate that you will need to bring more suitcases, let us know in advance. Please note an extra charge might occur if an extra coach needs to be arranged on arrival.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if someone loses their passport?

We strongly advise that passports are stored safely in the accommodation and remain there. If a passport is lost, the Group Leader will need to accompany the student to the embassy of their home country where they will be issued with a temporary replacement or a permit to travel. The CM will be able to help locate the embassy and print any forms that might be helpful. We recommend that you have a photocopy of every student's passport as a backup.

What happens if a student is lost on an excursion?

The first thing to do is to contact the student on their mobile. If this is possible then a member of the staff will collect the student whilst you wait with the rest of the group. If they are uncontactable, the Activity Leader will get hold of the CM who will in turn contact Head Office. Every student is issued with an 'Emergency Number' lanyard and ID Card. Students should call this number if lost and it will be answered by a member of Head Office.

How do students participate in onsite activities?

In most centres, a meeting point is set for activities. All activities and excursions will be advertised on the activity noticeboards and during mealtimes. Students can choose which activity they want to participate in. To ensure students take part in onsite activities they will now need to sign-up in advance and a register will be taken at the beginning of each activity.

Can students lock their room?

Yes. At Sparsholt College students will receive keys for each room and a master key in case the students lose theirs. We ask that students take particular care of their keys/key cards as room 'lockouts' take a significant amount of time to rectify. If a key is lost, there will be a charge £65 for its replacement.

What happens on departure day?

Prior to your final day on campus, Group Leaders will be invited to attend a departure meeting where the full procedure is explained.

At this point Centre Managers will indicate the time the group needs to be at the coach (which will arrive at the airport with at least 3 hours to check-in, go through security and reach your gate).

Can my students be taken off campus/programme by a member of their family?

We are happy to have parents or relatives visit the centre as long as they contact the centre in advance to arrange this. It is also possible to have a parent or relative take a student out of the programme for a short time. Parental approval must be sent to the centre email in advance. Original ID of the adult taking them from the centre will be photocopied on arrival. Relatives who accompany the student away from the centre will be asked to sign an 'Unscheduled Activity' form and will need to leave a contact number in case of an emergency.

What should we do if there is a problem with a bedroom?

All accommodation blocks are checked prior to the students' arrival, however, if you do notice a problem when you get to the centre it is essential you report this straight away. All group leaders will be issued with a 'maintenance report card' where they can submit all their students' room problems. If the report card is submitted to the Centre Manager by 10am, the CM will ensure the request is passed onto the maintenance staff that same day.

What do I do if a member of my group has food allergies or dietary requirements?

The campus catering staff are very experienced in catering for all kinds of allergies or dietary requirements. During our 30 years of operation, we have never had a problem with allergic reactions to food prepared on campus. In order for this to continue to be the case we ask that you alert us to any allergies / requirements prior to arrival to the UK. The admissions team should be notified before arrival in the UK.

What happens if a student is sick?

All sick students should be referred to the Centre Manager. If deemed necessary, a member of the staff will escort the student to a GP or hospital. If this does happen, the student must take their passport and any medical insurance documents with them in the instance that they may be required.

Is there a deposit?

Please be aware that a £30 deposit will be collected upon arrival which will be returned at the end of the programme if there is no damage to the rooms or loss of keys etc.

Do you have any other questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact the admissions team or our OIEG staff if you are on campus!

**Emergency number +44 (0) 203 318 3007
monitored 24/7.**

Please use only in real emergencies.



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