

Spring Explorer

Bell St Albans

23 MARCH - 26 APRIL 2025

1 - 5 WEEKS



Minimum staff to student ratio

1:6



Course summary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Age | 11 - 17 |
| Min. language level | All levels |
| Course length | 1-5 weeks |
| Start dates | Sunday 23 March Sunday 30 March Sunday 6 April Sunday 13 April Sunday 20 April |
| Location | St Albans |
| Course fees | £1.100 per week |

Course components

1 week

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



Electives

Students choose 3 elective activities per week.

Sample electives

- Football
- Archery
- Rounders
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Health & Fitness (Circuit Training)
- British School Sports & Games
- Orienteering
- Yoga
- Lacrosse
- Dodgeball
- Drama & Performing Arts
- Dance
- Photography & Filmmaking
- Arts & Crafts
- Board Games
- Sculpture
- Journalism
- Presentations & Debates
- Exam Skills
- Creative Writing
- Book Club
- Super Science Experiments

Overview

Spring Explorer is a perfect getaway for students to embrace that 'springtime' feeling and freshen up their language at our English countryside school, Bell St Albans. The course focuses on developing core English language skills through project-based learning activities and interactive learning – an effective way to learn language quickly and successfully. Our activity programme is also an integral part of the course and allows young learners to practice and develop what they have learnt in lessons.

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

Who is this for?

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

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 are designed to improve communication and confidence while developing academic, creative and active skills.

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



Sample Study Tours

Students take part in one full-day study tour per week to a London-based venue, with a walking tour of the sites and time for shopping. Students staying longer than one week will also have a weekend excursion.

Students have the opportunity to add optional activities to enhance their experience, available on certain weeks only (see page 8 for more details)

- Warwick** – explore the grounds of the medieval Warwick castle and wander through the historic streets of the town centre
- Cambridge or Oxford** – tour the city and university colleges, try punting along the river or visit one of the many world-class museums
- London** – see the London Eye, British Museum, Westminster Abbey, Natural History Museum, Science Museum or the Houses of Parliament
- Windsor** – discover a lively town in a glorious riverside location, best known for the Windsor Castle – one of the Queen's official royal residences and the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world.

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.

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



Comprehensive supervision by qualified staff



Free internet access



Residential accommodation and all meals



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



Free laundry service



A full programme of educational and social activities

** For arrival and departures between 7am and 7pm or advised train times*

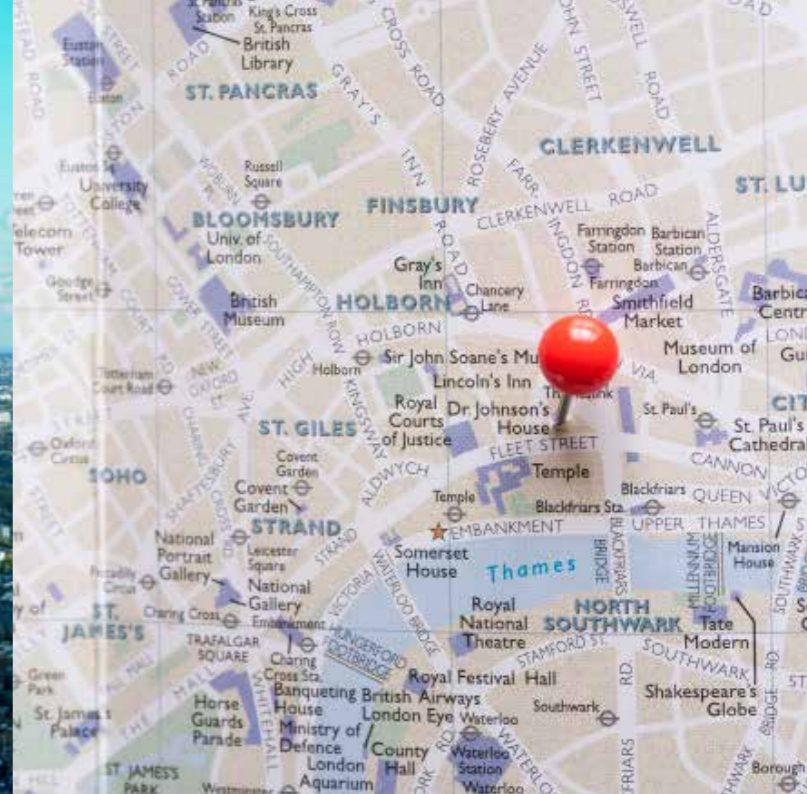
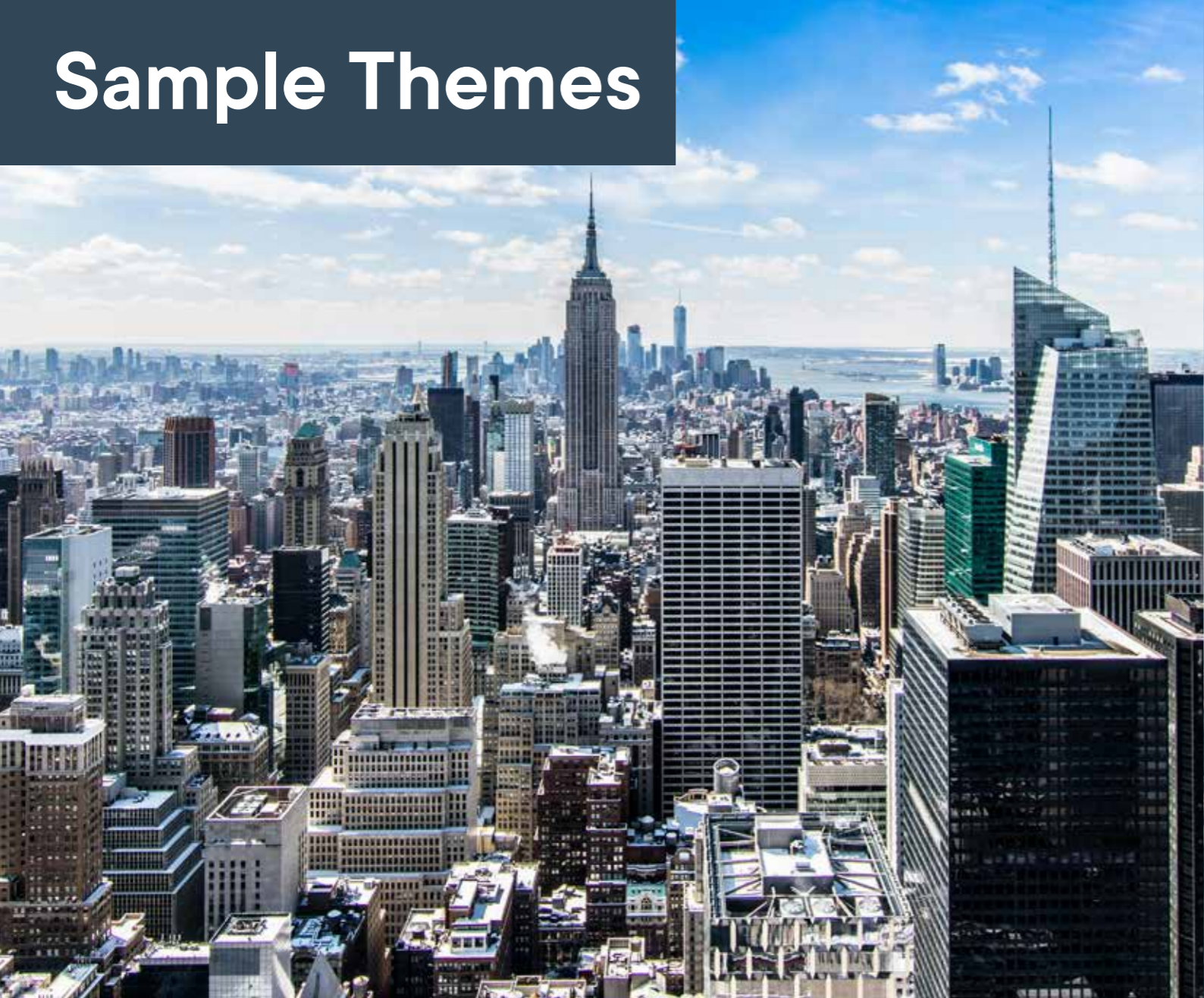


Comprehensive insurance



A full programme of study tours

Sample Themes



WEEK 1: The City of Villages

SUNDAY 23 MARCH – SATURDAY 29 MARCH

In this project students will learn about the evolution of cities as hubs of culture, commerce, and community, focusing on the interplay between urban development and local identities. Students will be looking at the city of London through the lens of the past, present and future as their main study tour destination.

Example learning outcomes

- ✓ Students will learn vocabulary related to urban development and community dynamics and grammatical structures to describe cities e.g. present perfect tense to describe changes in urban areas over time.
- ✓ Students will learn functional language to discuss possibilities, suggestions, and obligations related to community development.
- ✓ Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of socio-cultural impacts on urban planning and enhance their communication skills by presenting findings on community-based research projects.

Types of activities could include:




- Read about local histories and listen to interviews with Londoners.
- Compare and contrast the cultural traditions and festivals unique to urban communities.
- Carry out a debate to design a community improvement plan focused on enhancing living conditions.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London (and Oxford for continuous students)

- Thames River Cruise
- Ashmolean Museum
- Walking Tour of Landmarks
- Free Time

Topics may include:

-  Sociology
-  Geography History
-  Urban Studies





WEEK 2:

Sharing The Planet




SUNDAY 30 MARCH – SATURDAY 5 APRIL

In this project students will discover some amazing facts about the natural world and increase their awareness of global issues and the effects of human civilization on the planet. Students will be encouraged to explore global environmental challenges and design sustainable development plans by reflecting on their roles in preserving natural resources for future generations.

Example learning outcomes

- ✓ Students will learn vocabulary related to environmental issues and sustainability practices and grammatical structures to talk about current issues as well as make future predictions e.g. present simple and future tenses.
- ✓ Students will develop functional language to talk about consequences and speculate about hypothetical situations e.g. first and second conditional.
- ✓ Students will enhance their teamwork and leadership abilities through collaborative projects.

Topics may include:

-  Environmental Science
-  Geography
-  Economics

Types of activities could include:

- Carry out debates and discussions on global environmental issues and their implications.
- Watch a video about the impact of climate change on wildlife habitats and biodiversity.
- Research innovative solutions for reducing pollution and finding alternative means of transportation.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London (and Cambridge for continuous students)

- Natural History Museum
- Punting
- Walking Tour of Landmarks
- Free Time





WEEK 3:

They Changed The World




SUNDAY 6 APRIL – SATURDAY 12 APRIL

In this project, students will explore the lives and works of renowned writers like William Shakespeare and/or historical figures like Nelson Mandela. Students will learn more about how their contributions and will gain a deeper understanding of how powerful words and actions can leave a lasting legacy on society.

Example learning outcomes

- ✔ Students will learn vocabulary related to historical events and figures and grammatical structures to describe the life and/or the actions taken by influential figures e.g. past simple and/or continuous.
- ✔ Students will learn to analyse literary texts and speeches, identifying themes, rhetorical devices, and historical context.
- ✔ Students will enhance their confidence and fluency in public speaking by delivering presentations and performing dramatic interpretations of selected texts.

Topics may include:

-  History, Literature
-  Political Science
-  Ethics

Types of activities could include:

- Analyse key excerpts from Shakespeare's plays or Mandela's speeches to understand the meaning words can carry.
- Listen to a recorded biography about an influential figure and complete a gapped text based on the information provided.
- Compare and Contrast historical and contemporary figures.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London (and Stratford-Upon-Avon for continuous students)

- British Museum
- Shakespeare's Birthplace
- Walking Tour of Landmarks
- Free Time





WEEK 4: Kings & Queens

SUNDAY 13 APRIL – SATURDAY 19 APRIL

In this project the students will learn about the history, traditions, and cultural significance of monarchy in different societies. Students will be encouraged to examine the roles and responsibilities of royalty, their impact on national identities, and the evolution of monarchies in the modern world.

Example learning outcomes

- ✔ Students will learn specialized vocabulary related to monarchy and royal traditions and grammatical structures to talk about life events e.g. narrative tenses.
- ✔ Students will learn functional language to speculate on how different decisions by kings and queens might have changed history e.g. the third conditional form (B2).
- ✔ Students will develop critical-thinking skills by evaluating the historical and contemporary roles of monarchs as well as enhance their cultural awareness and sensitivity through comparative studies of royal institutions worldwide.

Types of activities could include:




- Research the lives and legacies of influential monarchs throughout history.
- Create a timeline of key events in the history of monarchy in different countries.
- Compare and contrast constitutional monarchy versus other forms of government.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London (and Windsor for continuous students)

- Tower of London
- Windsor Castle
- Walking Tour of Landmarks
- Free Time

Topics may include:

-  History
-  Political Science
-  Sociology





WEEK 5:

Nation of Innovation

SUNDAY 20 APRIL – SATURDAY 26 APRIL

In this project students will learn about innovation and technological advancements that have shaped societies and transformed industries. Students will be encouraged to explore the role of creativity, entrepreneurship, and scientific discovery in driving progress and addressing global challenges.

Example learning outcomes

- ✓ Students will learn technical vocabulary related to innovation and entrepreneurship and grammatical structures to make prediction about future innovations e.g. future tenses.
- ✓ Students will learn functional language to speculate about the potential impact of future innovations e.g. modals of possibility and probability.
- ✓ Students will enhance their problem-solving skills through hands-on projects and simulations.

Types of activities could include:




- Collaborate on a tech innovation challenge to solve real-world problems.
- Read about the impact of artificial intelligence on the world of education.
- Listen to a documentary about sustainable technologies.

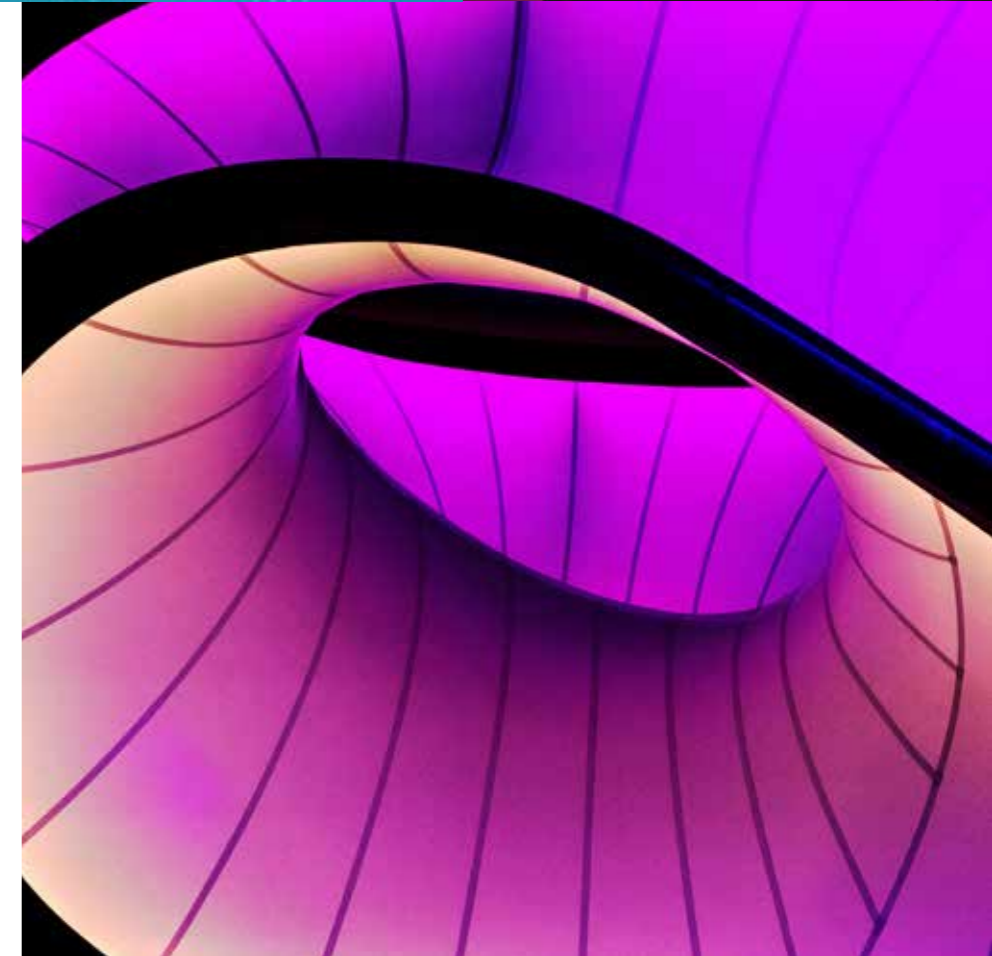
Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- The Science Museum
- Walking Tour
- Free Time

Topics may include:

-  Science and Technology
-  Business Studies
-  Ethics



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
bellenglish.com/locations/school/bell-st-albans



Special
group
prices*



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

Travel

- FREE transfers* on scheduled arrival and departure days from:
- London Heathrow 47 km
 - London Stansted 60 km
 - St Pancras 32 km

* For flight arrival/departures between 10am and 5pm or advised train times. Custom transfers can be arranged – ask us for details.

***Contact us for special group rates throughout the year at St Albans**

Bell St Albans Nationality Mix 2024



- Top 10 Nationalities:**
- Chile
 - Thailand
 - Brazil
 - Peru
 - France
 - Argentina
 - Italy
 - Spain
 - Japan
 - Saudi Arabia

*figures based on student weeks from January to August 2024

Transfers

Free transfers will be available for arrivals and departures between 7am and 7pm, depending on student travel requirements.

Any students travelling as an Unaccompanied Minor are subject to an additional £60 fee (per single journey).

Important:

Arrival details for each student must be sent to Bell at least 10 working days before the start of course to guarantee an airport transfer. Please also notify us at least 7 working days if there are any changes to your departure date.

Bell St Albans

London Heathrow 47km
London Stansted 60km
St. Pancras 31km

Bedrooms

All bedrooms contain bunk beds and can accommodate between two and six students. Every room also has a wardrobe, chest of drawers and chair. **Please note:** towels and hair dryers are not provided.

Bathrooms

Shared showers and toilet facilities are situated at convenient points throughout the accommodation.

Housekeeping

Bedrooms and bathrooms are cleaned regularly. Fresh bed linen is provided every week.

Meals

Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at the school and a packed lunch is provided on study tours). As well as a variety of global cuisines, students will experience traditional British meals such as roast dinners and fish and chips.

Laundry

Free laundry service for machine washable clothes once a week. Bell cannot take responsibility for any items lost or damaged during the laundry process.

Pocket Money

£150 per week (recommendation).

Electricity

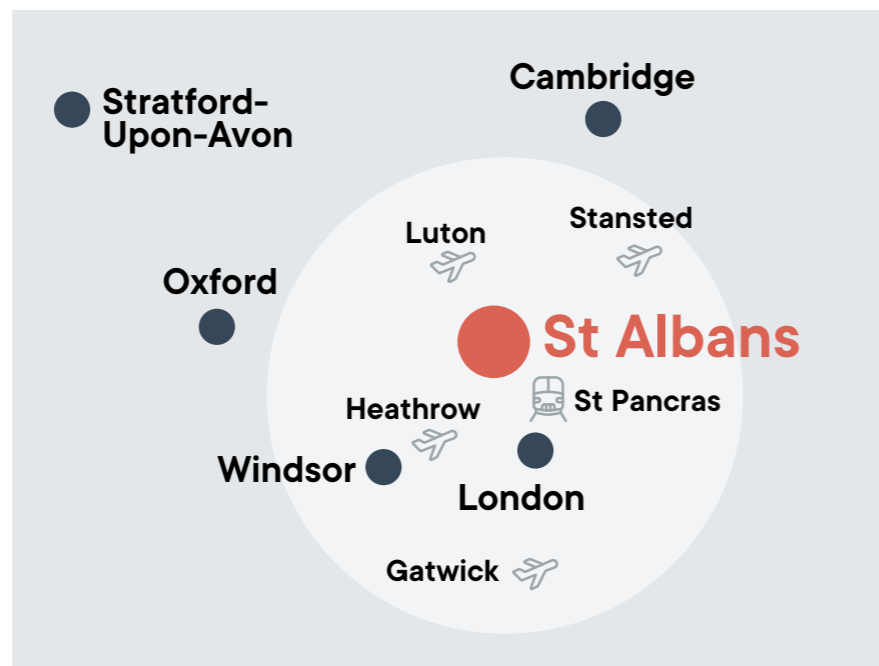
220-240V, 50Hz AC. UK-type 3-pin plugs are used.

Curfew

Lights are switched off between 22:30 and 23:00. Students are not allowed outside the school site without supervision.

| BELL ST ALBANS | 7AM - 7PM | OUT-OF-HOURS |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| London Heathrow | Free | £100 |
| London Stansted | Free | £170 |
| St. Pancras | Free* | £170 |

* based on advised train times



Supervision

- ✓ School team available 24 hours a day, all week
- ✓ Houseparents responsible for student welfare
- ✓ Houseparents available for support and advice at any time
- ✓ Staff:Student ratio is at least 1:6
- ✓ All onsite staff are police checked

Local Area Information

- ✓ Nearest town: St Albans is a 15-min drive with shopping centre and supermarket
- ✓ Nearest train station: St Albans City Train Station
- ✓ Nearest airport: Luton is a 20-min drive
- ✓ Travel time to London: 1 hour and 30 mins by train an 41 mins by taxi

Maximum Capacity

168 students

available at
Bell St Albans



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