Autumn Explorer

This programme offers a holistic language experience through a project-based approach that is immersive, flexible and lots of fun!

Course summary

Age 11-17
Language level All levels
Course Length 1 - 3 weeks
Location St Albans
Start Dates Any Sunday from 13 October to 27 October

This course is for

Young learners who want to combine English language study, activities and cultural visits.

Course Outcomes

Students will:
• Gain confidence and become more independent as learners and users of the English language
• Develop their English language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking)
• Improve their vocabulary, pronunciation and understanding of grammar appropriate to their level
• Develop skills in their chosen electives
• Develop essential life skills such as teamwork, independent study, communication and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning
• Make friends with students from a diverse mix of countries across the globe
• Produce a portfolio of work demonstrating progress, achievements and new experiences

Course Description

On an Autumn Explorer course, students develop a range of English language and life skills. Designed around a weekly theme, students learn through project-based lessons, study tours and activities.

Lessons
English lessons include projects which are designed around the school's weekly theme. Small groups of students work together on their projects focusing on each child’s language knowledge and skills development.

Activities
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.

Study Tours
Students enjoy study tours to UK destinations such as:
• London Science Museum
• Windsor Castle
• Oxford
• Cambridge

Progress to
• Another seasonal explorer programme with Bell: Summer, Spring and Winter
• Intensive Academic English
• Young Business Leaders
• Young Cambridge Scholars

Sample Timetable

Minimum staff to student ratio 1:6
Project-based learning

Students explore the English language and develop life skills through lessons, study tours and a combination of small-group and whole-school activities.

Explore the themes & topics
Explorer project-based learning is a fully-integrated approach to language acquisition that provides our students with lots of opportunities for learning everywhere, both inside and outside the classroom.

Develop language skills through learning
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 through other parts of the course
Project themes are purposefully broad in scope to allow the teachers and students to work together, taking the project in a direction which meets the needs and interests of the whole group. 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).
How does a landscape represent national identity?
Whose Britain is it?

Britain is a country full of hidden secrets. This course will take the students on an epic journey through their host nation to discover the places and diverse people that make this country what it is.

WEEK 1: National treasures
SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

Example Learning Outcomes
- Develop key vocabulary such as adjectives for describing traits and qualities of different people and places
- Learn functional language for giving and justifying personal opinions
- Students will develop their cross cultural understanding and communication skills

Topics may include:
- History and origins of the British people
- Geographical regions of the United Kingdom
- Historical landmarks and key people of British culture and history

Types of activities could include:
- Designing an educational treasure hunt for fellow students
- Interviewing different members of British society to find out about the most highly regarded figures in British life
- Designing and building a 3-D model of a famous and/or historic landmark

Week includes:

Study Tour: London
- The London Eye and walking tour

Excursion: Cambridge
- Punting & Colleges Walking Tour
How can we measure success? How can we design and market a product?

This project looks at what it means to be successful in the twenty-first century. Students may carry out a business planning and presentation project, or alternatively, conduct an investigation into the key qualities and practical skills to develop in order to reach their goals.

**Example Learning Outcomes**
- Learn to use conditional sentence structures to discuss real and hypothetical outcomes of business plans.
- Students will develop their skills in all four areas of communication: speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Students will collaborate effectively working with other students in teams.

**Types of activities could include:**
- Designing a ‘superfood’ menu for an imaginary restaurant.
- Filming an advertising video for a student-created product or service.
- Debating and discussing the ways in which we measure success in the modern world.

**Week includes:**
- **Study Tour: London**
  - Madame Tussauds and walking tour.
- **Excursion: Oxford**
  - Christchurch College and walking tour.

**Topics may include:**
- Product innovation
- Key behaviours for success
- Effect of food on the body
Topics may include:
- History of computer technology
- British design and origin
- Reviewing latest and most popular video games

Example Learning Outcomes:
1. Improved ability to use future tenses to make predictions about the development of technology.
2. Develop the ability to write coherently and cohesively by writing short stories on an online platform and reviewing each other’s work.
3. Students will be required to think critically and speculate on future developments in technology and its potential.

Types of activities could include:
- Research into the historical development of computer and communication technology.
- Preparing for the study tour by taking a virtual reality tour using their own smart phones.
- Profiling and reviewing the latest and most popular computer games.

Week includes:
Study Tour: London
- The Science Museum and walking tour

Excursion: Milton Keynes
- Bletchley Park
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.

Bell St Albans

Explorer courses available:
- Summer Explorer
- Winter Explorer
- Spring Explorer
- Autumn Explorer

Sample Electives
- Art and crafts
- British literature
- Cricket
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- Drama
- Film and photography
- Football
- Handball
- Health and fitness
- Journalism
- Lacrosse
- Music
- Orienteering
- Rounders
- Table tennis
- Volleyball

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

Accommodation
- Twin rooms and dormitories
- Separate accommodation blocks for boys and girls
- A dedicated houseparent in every boarding house
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, which are situated at strategic 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
£100 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.

Travel
Free transfers* on scheduled arrival and departure dates from either Heathrow or Luton airports and train station.

* Subject to timings. Custom transfers also available for other dates or arrival points – contact us for more details.

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
London Colney
Population: 7,700
Shops a 15-min walk away.
Large retail park and supermarket 5 mins away.
St Albans is a 15-min drive from many places of historic interest.
St Albans school is a 10-min drive from Radlett train station – providing fast links to London.

Maximun Capacity
135 students available at St Albans

For more information:
Visit our website bellenglish.com/booknow
Contact us Call +44 (0)1223 275598
In your own country Get in touch with your local Bell representative