



# NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE  
2025

STATE SECONDARY  
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR  
LONDON

9 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Year 9 French Exchange to Bondues, France – 17-24 May 2025 – Confirmation of Itinerary**

We are delighted to share the final arrangements for your child's upcoming French Exchange to Bondues. This opportunity offers an enriching experience both linguistically and culturally, and we thank you for your continued engagement and support.

### **Key Contact Information**

Trip Leader: Mrs Bongout – 07985 340 852

Second contact: Miss Jordan – 07985 340 891

These mobile numbers should be used in case of emergency during the trip.

### **Travel Details**

**Outwards: Saturday 17 May** – Meet at St Pancras International at **8.15am**.

Students should bring packed snacks. The Eurostar departs at 10.01am and arrives in Lille Europe at 12.25pm local time. Students will be met by their French host families at the piano in Lille station.

**Return: Saturday 24 May** – Meet at Lille Europe at 5.00pm

The Eurostar departs at 6.35pm and arrives at St Pancras at **6.57pm** (UK time). Please collect your daughter from the arrivals area.

### **Programme**

**Saturday 17 May:** Depart St Pancras 10.01am; arrive Lille Europe 12.25pm. Meet host families. Afternoon and evening spent with families. **Students to check in with Mrs Bongout between 2.00 and 4.00pm.**

**Headteacher:** Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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**Sunday 18 May:** Day with host families (no swimming, horse riding, climbing, etc.).

**Monday 19 May:** 8.00am Meet at school – welcome breakfast and school tour. Lessons with host partner; debrief and watch *Germinal*. 5.00pm Return to families.

**Tuesday 20 May:** 7.30am Departure for bakery workshop and Armentières walk. Your child will be able to buy items, but the venues only accept cash. Afternoon: Visit to Lewarde National Coal Mining Museum. 6.30pm Return to school. Host family to provide packed lunch.

**Wednesday 21 May:** Morning in lessons. Afternoon with host families.

**Thursday 22 May:** 8.00am Meet at school. Tree-trekking at Lille Citadelle. Picnic lunch and free time in Lille. Return to school by 5.00pm. Host family to provide packed lunch.

**Friday 23 May:** 7.30am: Departure for Boulogne. Morning: Visit Nausicaa Aquarium. Afternoon: Sand-yachting workshop (weather permitting). 6.30pm Return to school. Host family to provide packed lunch.

**Saturday 24 May:** Morning with families. 5.00pm Meet at Lille Europe for 6.35pm Eurostar. 6.57pm Arrival at St Pancras. (Local time) Host family to provide packed snacks.

### **What to Bring**

- Valid passport and photocopy
- EHIC/GHIC card and photocopy
- Pocket money €80–100 **in Euros**
- Medication if needed (please let me know about any medication in advance)
- Sun cream, hand sanitiser, toiletries
- Adaptor, mobile phone and charger, watch
- Camera or device for photos
- A small gift for the host family (e.g. tin of biscuits/London tea towels/English sweets. Something which will not break!)
- Pencil case
- Workbook (provided on the day of departure)
- Notebook and stationery
- Comfortable clothing and shoes
- Layers and waterproofs for excursions
- Sand-yachting gear: warm clothes, old trainers/Wellingtons, waterproof outerwear, gloves, a full change of clothes, sun cream and sunglasses.

Students should avoid bringing valuable items and are responsible for their belongings.

**Reminder:** All travel documents must be submitted to Mrs Bongout by **Tuesday 13 May**.

In addition to the above, please ensure you provide a printed copy of your child's Share Code if they are not travelling with a UK passport. This code is essential for border checks and must be submitted alongside a copy of their UK Residency Card if applicable.

**If going to Belgium with the host family, students should hand over their passport to the host parents for safekeeping.**

**Engagement:**

We ask that students fully engage with their host family – they should avoid texting (only use the Internet to access e-mails and for a VERY brief period, if NECESSARY). Roaming charges can prove very expensive. Students should ask for their partner's home WiFi. Students must make no mention of their whereabouts on social media.

Contact with staff will be maintained throughout the week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [pbongout@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:pbongout@newsteadwood.co.uk) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bongout', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Mrs P Bongout**  
**Assistant Headteacher**