

## MMF Moselle Valley Tour – Parent/Guardian Meeting Summary (June 25, 2026)

### 1. Overview

The meeting was led by **David Rees (Chief Executive)** and **Martha Gibbons (Operations Director / Tour Lead)**, joined by the team of staff who will accompany the 50 young people on the July music tour to the **Moselle Valley, Germany**. The session covered the itinerary, accommodation, packing, spending money, code of conduct, medical procedures, and Q&A.

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### 2. Tour Team

Adults attending the tour include:

- **David Rees** – Chief Executive
  - **Martha Gibbons** – Ensembles & Tour Lead
  - **Michael Chillingworth** – Jazz Ensembles Lead
  - **Soo Bishop** – Schools & Projects Lead; Tour Choir Lead
  - **Frances Griffin** – Ensemble Lead; Quality of Learning Lead
  - **Billy Fisher** – Concert Band Lead
  - **Helena Hafsteinsdottir** – Strings Lead
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### 3. Accommodation

**Location:** Traben-Trarbach, Moselle Valley, Germany

**Hostel features:**

- Newly refurbished
- **4 students per room, all en-suite**
- Rooming preferences submitted via parent form (age-appropriate grouping is the priority, please ensure you have read the Rooming Policy)
- Restaurant, lounge, large games room, outdoor areas
- Free Wi-Fi throughout
- Towels provided (small); students may bring their own larger towel
- Bring own toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste)
- Hand soap may not be provided

Parents of anxious or first-time travellers can request help arranging pre-tour meetups with other families by contacting: [martha.gibbons@mmf.org.uk](mailto:martha.gibbons@mmf.org.uk)

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#### 4. Itinerary Highlights/

##### Day 1 – Travel

- **4:15am** arrival at Merton Abbey Primary School
- Coach to Dover → Calais ferry → onward to Moselle Valley
- **First included meal is: dinner at hostel** (please ensure your child brings food / snacks and money to buy meals at service stations / on the ferry)

##### Day 2 – Rehearsal + Concert

- Morning rehearsal
- Lunch provided (only day with included lunch)
- Concert in **Bad Kreuznach**
- Dinner in town

##### Day 3 – Theme Park + Concert

- Visit to **Eifel Park** (rides + animals)
- Students buy their own lunch
- Evening concert in **Enkirch** (8pm)

##### Day 4 – Castle + Optional Chairlift + Concert

- Visit to **Cochem** and **Reichsburg Castle**
- Free time for lunch
- Optional **chairlift** (€7.90, parental consent required)
- Concert in **Bad Bertrich**
- Evening **open mic night** at hostel

##### Day 5 – Lakeside Activities + Final Concert

- **Triolago Lakeside Beach**
- Activity choices: water assault course, swimming, mini golf, pedalo
- Picnic lunch (students will buy food at supermarket)
- Final concert in **Bernkastel-Kues**
- End of tour celebration evening

##### Day 6 – Return Travel

- Depart 8:30am
- Return to Merton Abbey approx. **9:30pm** (updates will be sent via text)

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## 5. Spending Money

Recommended: **€125–€175**

Bring **both cash and a travel card** (e.g., Monzo), as many places are cash-only.

Students will need money for:

- Day 1 meals
- Day 3 lunch at theme park + souvenirs
- Day 4 lunch + chairlift (€7.90 optional)
- Day 5 picnic lunch + snacks
- Day 6 meals

Staff can help students to budget and look after money, if needed (please request this).

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## 6. Packing Guidance

Due to limited coach space:

- **Soft holdalls only** (no hard suitcases)

### Concert clothing:

- MMF polo shirt *or* long-sleeve black shirt (guitar ensembles)
- White school-style shirt
- Bright plain T-shirt (no large logos)
- Black bottoms (shorts/skirts allowed)
- Black shoes

### Other essentials:

- Instrument + **foldable music stand**
- Spare strings/reeds/valve oil etc.
- Comfortable clothes + walking shoes
- Swimwear + towel
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Passport
- **GHIC card (there should still be just enough time to order one if needed)**
- Travel money + travel card
- EU plug adapter (plus optional UK extension lead)

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## 7. Code of Conduct

Key expectations:

- **Lights out** around 10:30–11pm
- No leaving rooms after lights out
- No leaving hostel unsupervised at any time
- No leaving hostel after dark
- Phones allowed but must be used responsibly
- **No photos/videos in bedrooms**
- No photos of others without consent
- No inappropriate content
- **Alcohol:**
  - Under 18s: strictly prohibited
  - 18-year-olds: only with staff present, in designated areas
- **No smoking/vaping**
- **No drugs**

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## 8. Medical & Medication Procedures

Recent updates to policy were highlighted.

### Pre-existing conditions

Parents must:

- Update MMF on any changes
- Specify storage/dosage etc requirements
- Agree whether child self-administers or staff to administer

### Emergency medication

- Students with severe allergies / asthma must carry **two EpiPens** or inhalers
- MMF also carries a spare, however you are also requested to provide staff with spare EpiPens for your child, if possible
- Staff and pupils will always know where medication is stored

### Over-the-counter medication

- Under 16s may not carry over-the-counter meds unless agreed in advance

- **No sharing medication under any circumstances**

#### **If a child becomes unwell**

- Staff will call parents first
  - Minor issues handled with consent (paracetamol, antihistamine, etc)
  - Serious issues → emergency services
  - Staffing levels allow for hospital accompaniment if needed
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#### **9. Safety Procedures**

- Seatbelts mandatory on coach
  - No standing/walking on coach
  - Rule of **three** during free time in towns
  - Swimming only with parental consent and confirmation of 25m ability
  - Safe lifting of equipment taught on Day 1
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#### **10. Communication During Tour**

- MMF will send any urgent updates via text
  - Students can contact home via hostel Wi-Fi
  - Social media updates planned
  - Tour emergency contact number: 07958 117232 (or David: 07966 001059 / Martha: 07983 182011).
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#### **11. Q&A Highlights**

Parents asked about:

- **GHIC cards** – can be obtained quickly; travel insurance also included
- **Passports** – staff will collect and store securely
- **Guitar leads** – students should bring their own; spares available
- **Towels & toiletries** – small towel provided; bring own toiletries
- **Chairlift safety** – supervised at top and bottom; there is a safety bar, however it doesn't have a locking mechanism.
- **Allergies** –
  - Staff will carry translated allergy cards
  - Hostel and restaurants pre-informed

- Some German speakers available
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## 12. Final Notes

- All young people **must read the Code of Conduct** before travelling
  - Next **tour rehearsals** are on Sunday 28 June and Sat 18 July (times provided on website)
  - All forms, itinerary, packing list, and updates are on the MMF website under “**Moselle 2026**” [www.mmf.org.uk/moselle2026](http://www.mmf.org.uk/moselle2026)
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