



Tuesday 6th November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ski Trip Friday 5th April – Saturday 13th April 2019

We currently still have a small number of places left on the Ski Trip, and we are reopening the applications for this trip, which is now open to all students in Years 7 – 11.

St Mary's and St John's School will be offering a week's ski trip to Austria for students in Years 7 to 11, to Zillertal, Austria. The purpose of this trip is for students to experience an adventurous activity and the culture of an alpine country. We will depart by coach from SMSJ School on Friday 5th April 2019 and return to school on Saturday 13th April 2019. As with previous years, Ski Astons, a reputable company with over 25 years of experience organising European ski tours, will be our tour operator. We travelled with them to Austria 2018, and we have been very impressed with the service they have provided.

- Resort:** Zillertal, Austria
- Depart UK:** Friday 5th April 2019
- Return UK:** Saturday 13th April 2019
- Mode of travel:** Luxury executive coach
- Cost:** £1007

Please note we currently estimate the total cost of the trip to be £1007, although this will depend on the number of students interested along with other factors we may need to cost-in. We are very pleased to have negotiated a minimal increase from last year and we hope that the instalment programme will help spread the cost of this fantastic opportunity.

We appreciate this year's cost is more expensive than last years. However, this year's price includes an extra day of skiing, equipment hire, lift pass, accommodation and meals, and all evening activities. The extra day skiing will give the children the chance to really develop their skiing abilities.

The cost of the trip will be £1007, and this includes:

- Luxury executive coach travel throughout
- Services of two experienced driver/couriers working within EU regulations
- Full use of the coach within the resort to slopes and après-ski activities
- Pick up from and drop off at school
- Channel crossings via ferry

- 6 nights full board accommodation at **Hotel Michalerhof** and an extra evening meal (Breakfast, lunch packet & 3 course evening meal)
- 6 day lift pass
- 6 days hire of skis, boots and poles plus helmets
- 6 days of minimum 4 hrs/day Astons qualified ski tuition/guiding
- Half day shopping/sightseeing excursion
- Evening entertainment package (all included in price)
- Comprehensive travel and winter sports insurance
- Certificate of Attainment
- Backing of a fully ABTA bonded company

Not included in the cost:

- Passport and visa, if required (please check with the Embassy if passport is non-UK passport)
- Ski wear
- Meals en-route
- Pocket money (we recommend £10 per day which should be changed into Euros before we depart).

We will provide a full itinerary and check-list of equipment your child will need to take with him/her nearer the time of the trip.

In addition it is recommended that your child gains some experience of wearing ski boots and carrying ski poles etc., if he/she has never skied before. We will be organising a trip to the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead in the New Year, which although not compulsory, is strongly recommended.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS RESTRICTED FOR THIS TRIP TO 40 and places will be issued on a first come first served basis. To secure a place, the slip at the bottom of this letter must be handed to Mr McHugh, who will be in the Atrium at Bennett House from 8:00am on Wednesday 7th November.

Once the slips have been received parents will be notified by email informing them that they have until 3:30pm on **Friday 9th November 2018** to pay **the £200 deposit** on ParentPay. **Please note this deposit is non-refundable.** The remaining balance of £807.00 will need to be fully paid by **1st April 2019**.

If the deposit payment is not received **by 3:30pm on Friday 9th November** the place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

The trip can only take place if we have a group of 40 students paying the full cost of £1007. Unless sufficient numbers sign up for the trip it will not be able to take place, and any contributions made will be refunded in full. In accordance with our Charging Policy a student's participation in such an activity is a matter of parental choice and on the basis of a willingness to meet any charges applicable. Thus such an agreement is a prerequisite to a student's inclusion.

As this is an extra-curricular activity the school are unable to subsidise the cost of this trip. However, due to our large group booking we have secured an excellent rate for outstanding facilities.

Students wishing to secure a place must ensure their passport is valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of the visit. Certain students will need to apply for visa in order to travel and this can be done via the school.

In addition, I must insist that you declare any pre-existing medical conditions that could affect your child whilst skiing. If there are any, a written medical approval has to come from your GP otherwise our insurance is void, in which case you would have to pay for any extra expenses that may be incurred.

If your child successfully secures a place on the trip, the initial deposit will be followed by a further four instalments:

- Friday 9th November 2018 - £200 deposit

- Friday 4th January 2019 - £250

- Friday 15th February 2019 - £250

- Monday 1st April 2019 - £307

All payments are through Parent Pay ("Austria Ski Trip 2019") so you are able to submit payments at your discretion, as long as the above deadlines are met. Please log on to your ParentPay account in the usual manner to make your payments. If you have any problems or need a reminder of your user name or password, please email: parentpay@smsj.london.

If your child is allocated a place, any deposit and further instalments paid are non-refundable unless covered by the insurance policy (e.g. medical). Details of this cover will be available on request. Disinclination to travel is not covered by the insurance and you will not be able to claim a refund. If a student misbehaves on a trip to the extent they need to be sent home, the student will be accompanied home by a trip adult, or their parent / carer can collect them. Any additional costs that are incurred, both for the student and accompanying adult will be borne solely by the student's family or carers. I would like to also take this opportunity to inform you that no students on the trip will be allowed to smoke or consume alcohol at any time on the trip, even if they are at the legal age of consent. In addition, if a student withdraws or is withdrawn from a trip, any deposit or fees paid that a tour operator deducts for cancellation will not be refunded under any circumstances. This includes the instance where the school decides to withdraw a child because of behavioural issues that may have emerged after the trip was booked.

We, as a school, reserve the right to withdraw a child because of behavioural issues with any period of notice. Please contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Mr McHugh
Head of PE

Ski Trip Easter 2019
Friday 5th April – Saturday 13th April 2019

Name of Student: _____ PAM _____

I would like to reserve a place for my child on the SMSJ ski trip, and agree to pay the full balance by 1ST March 2019 if my child is successful in gaining a place on the trip.

Signature _____ Date _____

