



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Iceland Trip February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to announce that we will be taking a group of students to the South West of Iceland next February 2021. This is an exciting residential opportunity and a great experience for students who will learn about the amazing human and physical geography this country has to offer.

Please see below an overview of the trip:

Day 1: Arrive in Keflavik airport where we will be transported straight to the famous Blue Lagoon. This lagoon is a geothermal spa and is one of the most visited attractions in Iceland. The spa is located in a lava field in Grindavik on the Reykjanes Peninsula. We will then head to the capital city of Reykjavik to check into our city centre hotel for the evening. We will spend the evening going on an evening walk around the beautiful capital city.

Day 2: We will begin our journey out of the urban Reykjavic and begin exploring the amazing physical landscapes that Iceland has to offer. We will head for the south of the country to visit the world famous lava fields of Hveragerði where we will take a trip to the wonderful Seljalandsfoss waterfall. For lunch we will visit the largest settlement outside of the capital called Vik, surrounded by snow capped mountains and spend the afternoon at the Reynishverfi black beaches. We will then spend the evening overnight in the countryside slopes of Hvolsvöllur where, with luck we will witness the natural phenomenon known as the Northern Lights.

Day 3: We will awake in the amazing Hvolvollur and start our journey to the nearby glacier of Solheimajokul. Here we will learn how such glaciers form over time and get the opportunity to trek to the glacier in our provided crampons. In the afternoon we will visit Skogafoss waterfall, and stop off at a number of famous landmarks including the famous Katla volcano, the largest and most active volcano in the region. A visit to the Lava centre will give students more information about the tectonic landscapes they have been experiencing over the past few days. We will then spend the evening back in the countryside of Hella and students will have the opportunity to visit a local geo-thermal swimming pool.

Day 4: Following breakfast we will take a trip to Geysr to see the famous hot springs. We will witness the power of the earth and these geysurs really demonstrate the huge geo-thermal energy beneath Iceland's surface. We will also visit the site of the Eyjafjallajökull 2010 volcanic eruption. This is a case study we will have studied ahead of the trip back in the classroom. We will then go onwards to Gullfoss, arguably one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe. Refreshments and ice-cream will be enjoyed at Efsti-Dalur a famous dairy farm on route to our last stop of the day Thingvellir National Park.

Principal - Dr J Coughlan

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Day 5: In the morning we will explore the capital city by day and students will have the opportunity to buy souvenirs and visit some of the famous landmarks of the city. We will then take a boat and explore the local coastline on the look out for whales, a fantastic opportunity at this time of the year. Late morning we will travel to Reykjanes a geological wonder. Reykjanes Peninsula is a UNESCO Global Geopark and part of the European and Global Geopark network. The peninsula, with its diversity of volcanic and geothermal activity, is well suited to be a Geopark as it is the only place in the world where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is visible. We will then travel to Keflavík airport and make our way back to Heathrow airport and back to Bishop Challoner.



Key Information:

Dates	11 th – 15 th February 2021 (4 nights and 5 days)
Places available	50
Trip Leader	Mr Mullins (Head of Geography)
Total cost	£1200 (payable in monthly instalments or as one payment)
Deposit required	£150 to secure a place on the trip by the end of March.
Further payments	Seven further payments of £150 will be required in the months of April, May, June, July, September, October and November.
What is included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return flights from London Heathrow (Iceland Air) • Hold luggage for all passengers • Return transfers to Heathrow Airport • Professional local guide • Full Board Basis (breakfast, lunch and evening meal) • All accommodation (good standard) • School insurance • All activities (Blue lagoon, whale watching, golden circle, glacier walk, lava centre) • Trip hoody
What will be needed ahead of the trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm / waterproof clothing and footwear for the duration of the trip. • A small amount of spending money (Icelandic Króna) for souvenirs and money in sterling for at the airport. • A valid passport. • A free to obtain European Health Insurance Card (Subject to any new guidelines).



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There are **50 places** available on this trip. Each place will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you would like your son/daughter to take part on this trip then please give consent and pay the Deposit/Fee of **£150** before **March 27th 2020**. The trip will go live on School Comms on **Thursday 5th March 2020**. This consent includes your permission for photographs to be taken of your child. If you object to your son/daughter being captured in the photographs please contact me on 0121 444 4161.

If due to personal circumstances you need an extended period of time to pay the deposit then please get in touch with Mr Mullins to discuss in confidence at your earliest convenience.

If you have been unsuccessful in securing a place on SchoolComms for your child then please contact Mrs Durkin in the Pastoral Office to request that your child is placed on a reserve list for the trip. If and when a place becomes available you will be contacted directly.

Parents/carers will be notified and invited into school for a trip meeting likely to be scheduled for **December 2020** so all questions and queries can be answered in full. If you have any immediate questions or require more information about the trip ahead of booking please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mullins at school.

Yours faithfully

Mr Mullins
Head of Geography
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