

4th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Ski Trip to Lake Placid USA – April 2021

I am pleased to announce plans for a school Ski trip to take place during the Easter holidays, from Thursday 1st April 2021 to Friday 9th April 2021.

Following on from this year's excellent ski trip to Passo Tonale, I am delighted to offer another outstanding opportunity for our students.

We will be travelling to the wonderful resort of Whiteface Lake Placid with a New York stopover.

Whiteface is one of the most snow sure resorts on the East Coast with the biggest vertical drop and a very convenient transfer to New York.

Lake Placid is a prestigious resort which held two Olympics in the past and the post-Olympic infrastructure makes it a really fun resort to travel to with Olympic bob sleigh runs and Olympic museums and ski jumps still in place for all to enjoy.

The hotel itself is 4 star style and of superb quality with great facilities to include indoor swimming pool, spa, fitness centre, two restaurants and several meeting rooms that can be used for evening entertainments such as a quiz or bingo night. It is located in the centre of Lake Placid within an easy walking distance to shops and evening entertainment such as the cinema and Olympic Village and only a 15-20min free shuttle ride to the slopes.

We have negotiated a fantastic deal as a school group and the cost for the week is £1610. **There is also an option to fly from Manchester for £1660. (This decision will be made following consultation with parents.** The price includes the following:

INCLUSIONS:

- Return coach transfer to LHR
- Departure LHR Airport Thursday 1 April 2021
- Return to LHR Airport Friday 9th April 2021
- Coach Transfer to Lake Placid, Hotel High peaks 4* Resort
- 6 nights Half Board accommodation
- Return Overseas transfers
- 5 day ski equipment hires to include helmets
- 5 day lift pass
- 5 day 4 hour tuition
- Ski storage by the lifts
- New York stopover in 4* star hotel in centre of New York
- Visit to shopping outlet mall
- Evening meal in New York City centre e.g. Hard Rock Cafe
- Services of a dedicated Equity ski rep who resides in the hotel with your group
- Help of an Area Manager
- Full use of the hotel's facilities
- Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance

I understand that this is a large sum of money to pay out and I have therefore arranged for school to administer a payment plan using ParentPay. This will be confirmed in writing once your child has secured a place.

At this time we are requesting a deposit:

- **£150** due by **Thursday 3rd October 2019** to secure a place, paid via ParentPay.

Failure to maintain payments in line with the payment plan will jeopardise your child's place on the tour. It is really important that you are aware of the following:

If for **any reason you are no longer able to support your child's place on the tour all monies paid could be forfeited**. The tour may be over-subscribed and we will endeavor to re-sell the place but we offer no guarantees. **Any monies would only be returned at the conclusion of the tour on the basis that the school could re-sell the vacant place with a full paying replacement.**

Please be aware that payment deadlines must be met. You will be able to track your payments and outstanding balances on Parentpay. Please note that students will require a valid Passport and European Health Insurance Card for this trip.

I will write to all Parents/Carers of students involved in due course to inform you of who is taking part and the staff supervising. I will also include in that letter advice about clothing and preparation, documentary information and the information about the parents evening we will be holding nearer the time. At the parents' evening, I will be inviting a ski clothing company who have many years' experience in cost effective school ski weeks, to come along and give advice about clothing and other equipment that may be desirable for your son/daughter.

Many students are interested in this trip and for this reason I must point out that the places will be available based on a draw process. Once all the deposits are received after the deadline passes on 3rd October, I will invite a governor into school to draw the successful names out of a hat therefore ensuring that no child has an advantage over another. Should your child not be successful in gaining a place on the trip, your deposit will be refunded.

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience breath-taking scenery and the cultural charm of an Olympic ski resort. There are further benefits to a residential outward bound trip such as; coping with being away from parents for an extended duration; the cultural experience that a foreign country offers and the obvious benefits for social development.

The school reserves the right to withdraw a student's place if they deviate seriously from the positive structure our behaviour policy provides. In this case, monies will only be returned if a full paying replacement is secured.

If you would like to reserve a place for your son/daughter on the trip please log on to ParentPay at <https://www.parentpay.com/Parents/Login/>, confirm consent and make a **£150 non-refundable** deposit **by Thursday 3rd October 2019**. If you have any issues with ParentPay, please contact the finance department.

In the meantime if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at school and I will hopefully be able to provide you with the answers.

(Please note: Where the student has committed to a trip, and the School has entered into a financial agreement with an external supplier for such a trip, the School cannot refund monies which those suppliers will not refund as the School is acting as an agent in buying the trip for the students)

Yours faithfully

C. Bramwell

C BRAMWELL
Headteacher

Due to the significant amount of money that is involved with this tour I feel it is pertinent to also inform you of some of the key terms and conditions as set out by Equity Ski (the travel company with whom we are organising the tour) regarding cancellations and refunds.

This is also taken from the companies booking terms and conditions, Section 9 regarding 'FORCE MAJURE': (unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling a contract)

Force Majeure

We regret that we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected by events or circumstances amounting to "force majeure". In these booking conditions "force majeure" means any event the consequence of which we or the supplier of the service(s) affected could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include but are not limited to war or threat of war, riots, civil strife on any scale, or actual threatened terrorist activity, industrial dispute, man-made or natural disaster, adverse weather conditions, pandemic and all similar events beyond our control.

With regards to any acts of terrorism that might occur in Lake Placid before we travel:

"We regularly review the Foreign Office Travel advice as to whether it is safe for our groups to travel... if the situation changes, then closer to your date of departure we will enter into negotiations with our suppliers regarding partial or full refunds, and/or look at the option of an alternative destination for your tour.. Please be assured that we would never jeopardise the safety of your group by sending you to a region or country that is unsafe"

Full booking terms and conditions as defined by Equity Ski can found on their website:

<https://www.schoolski.co.uk/>