

4th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Skiing trip to Zell Am See, Austria, Feb 9th – 17th 2024

I am pleased to be writing to you about a school ski trip that is planned for the February half-term 2024. It is open to all students in the current Year 7 through to Year 10 (though please see below regarding further information for students who will be in Year 11 in 2023-24), and is also open to students currently in Year 11 who will be joining the King's School Sixth Form.

Students who will be in Year in 2023-24 should consider that the February half term is an important time for revision ahead of summer GCSE exams. Students currently in Year 10 should only apply for places on the trip if they are confident that they will be fully on track to achieve their target grades in summer GCSEs exams 2024, and will not be needed for half term intervention in school in this half term break.

King's School has chosen to travel with Skibound for this trip; they have over 40 years of experience in running school ski trips, with an expertise in Austrian ski trips. They are completely financially protected by ABTA and ATOL, meaning that in the event of any unlikely unexpected occurrence your money is protected. We will be staying in the Club Kitzsteinhorn Hotel in Zell Am See, Austria from February 9th to February 17th 2024. The hotel is ideally suited for young people with two sports halls, a cinema room, a disco room, a games room, indoor volleyball courts and lots of other facilities.

The cost of the trip will be around £1500 per student based on a total of 80 students, accompanied by 10 teachers. This price includes: coach and ferry travel to and from the resort; full board accommodation; packed lunches on the slope; lift passes; ski insurance; personalised ski hooded jumper; and ski equipment hire, including helmets. Students will need to bring additional spending money for any snacks or drinks they wish to purchase within the resort (drinking water is free at all times). The trip will offer participants five hours of ski tuition per day with fully qualified staff as well as a variety of evening entertainments. There will also be some optional evening activities, such indoor climbing and bowling, which there will be an additional charge for.

We will be giving further details and an opportunity for you to ask questions at the initial trip information meeting for parents and students which will be held on **Wednesday 16th November online at 6pm.** A link to this meeting will be sent out beforehand - all are welcome to join this online meeting and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have. Following the success of our previous ski trips, we anticipate that interest will be high therefore the following system will be in place to ensure we make the application process for trip places as fair as possible:

- After the meeting on the 16th November a letter will be sent out via parentpay. You must reply to this letter to register your interest for the trip and your child/children will be entered into a draw for a place on the trip. **Expressions of interest must be emailed/handed in by 5pm on Wednesday 23rd November.**
- The draw will be made on Thursday 24th November for the first 80 names and then a reserve list will be drawn, in order, for all other students that have expressed an interest.
- If your child is drawn out in the first 80 places a further letter will need to be returned with all personal details, **including a £200/300 deposit**, by 4.30pm on Thursday 1st December. Please note that deposits are non-refundable.

Please note that this is a not a curriculum trip and therefore we are unable to offer any financial assistance. However, in the case of financial hardship, you can contact our finance department in confidence to arrange an alternative payment scheme. Staff must be confident that students joining the trip will be able to follow staff instructions at all times to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire group.

We are of course very aware that the current cost of living crisis will make paying for places on the trip more challenging for many families. However, the feedback we have received from students on previous trips is that it is one of the highlights of their King's School experience and we still want to offer that opportunity for our current students. As staff it is a pleasure to take students away to a foreign country to enable them to try new experiences, be pushed out of their comfort zones, make new friendships with peers, and above all have a brilliant time away making memories.

Further details about the trip will be presented during the parent meeting on the 16th November and if there are still questions about the trip after that meeting I will let you know the best way to be in contact with us to have those answered.

I look forward to speaking with you on the 16th November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Cornell
Head of Physical Education