



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

DW/ajp

29 March 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Geography Trip to Iceland in Easter 2016 for A-Level & GCSE

I thought I would take this opportunity to write and confirm the final itinerary and details.

Meeting Time on Saturday 2nd April

Please can your son arrive at school by 8.30am where he will need to report to Mr Kelly and Mr Simms first to collect his tour clothing. The clothing is scheduled for a print run this week and I am therefore unable to collect from the company until later in the week. Once any clothing has been collected and luggage taken to the right coach your son needs to report to Mr Simms, if he is in coach B (Year 10s), or Mrs Phillips if he is in coach A (Years 11, 12 or 13) to register and hand in his passport. As the main first aider for the trip please can parents let me know if there are any medical updates I need to be aware of or to pass me back ups of any medicines.

Itinerary Update

The itinerary includes all the activities the trip was advertised with but last week the tour company revised the order of what we were doing each day. The main change is that we are no longer going straight to the blue lagoon and instead will be heading to Thingvellir national park on arrival. This means your son no longer needs to travel with his swimming kit in his carry-on luggage. He should travel in his walking boots. The revised itinerary is as follows:

List of Planned Daily Activities

1. Saturday am : Travel to Iceland
2. Saturday pm : Thingvellir National Park
3. Saturday eve: Travel to Hotel Ork
4. Sunday : Coach A – Ferry to Heimaey island and its Eldfell volcano*
Coach B – Seljalandafoss, Skogarfoss & Glacier walk on the Solheimajokull.
5. Monday : Coach B – Ferry to Heimaey island and its Eldfell volcano*
Coach A – Seljalandafoss, Skogarfoss & Glacier walk on the Solheimajokull.
6. Tuesday : Blue Lagoon, Golden Circle & Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant
7. Tuesday eve: Travel to Reykjavik with an evening walk around Reykjavik.
8. Wednesday am: Whale watching or walking tour around Reykjavik
9. Wednesday pm: Travel back to the UK

*In the advent of adverse weather conditions the ferry might not be running and in this case we will visit Skaftafell National Park to the east of the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap.

Head Teacher: Mr M Brown



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2/.....

Kit list Update

The original kit list that has been emailed out and distributed on several occasions is still valid but I would recommend packing some plastic bags so your son can put his used swimming trunks and towels in so they do not affect the dry luggage during the journey home. We will have a maximum of 3 swimming opportunities. Your son will need a glue stick and pencil case – see below.

Academic Expectations

I have asked Mr Streets to source 72 A6 notebooks, which he has kindly done, so that your son has a fieldwork journal for making geographical notes during the trip. So that the journals are as effective as they can be I have written, to A6 size, 25+ geographical sheets that have been printed and cut out for every student. Some of these will be given to him during the Iceland meetings but it would be helpful if your son could travel with a pencil case and glue stick. This is for some follow up work in the evenings on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I am aware that a small number of students do not study GCSE or A-level geography. If you do not want your son to take part in the academic aspect of the trip please email me at pdawson@hitchinboys.co.uk to let me know otherwise I will ensure all 72 students gain some knowledge of Iceland and its geographical features from the trip.

Photographic and Journal competition

Please remember that there are two competitions running for the best photo and best journal that will be decided in the weeks following the trip. More details on this to follow from Mr Streets post trip.

First Aid Update

You may remember from the parents evening on the 2nd February that Mr Kelly was noted as being the first aider for coach B. This has now been changed to Miss Whale who has just completed the same qualification that I possess, which is the more rigorous 'First Aid in the Workplace' course. With this in mind Miss Whale has moved to coach B and Mrs Phillips is now in coach A.

Behaviour Expectations

I have discussed behaviour with the students and whilst I am not expecting any issues, as we have 72 smashing GCSE and A-level boys with us, I would appreciate you reinforcing the importance of always following instructions & to living up to the expectations of what it means to be a '*Hitchin Boy*'.

Emergency Contact and the Geography Twitter Account - @HBSGeog

Finally, a reminder that myself and Miss Whale will be posting photos of our tour on the Geography twitter account. My records indicate that all 72 sets of parents are happy for their son to be included on any photos. If this is not the case please email me at the above address before we depart. You do not need a Twitter account of your own to view our Tweets, simply type @HBSGeog into a search engine.

3/.....

Emergency Contact in the UK is Mr Martin Monks who can be reached on his email address mmonks@hitchinboys.co.uk. I will be regularly picking up emails pdawson@hitchinboys.co.uk . As previously advised phone coverage in Iceland is limited.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Dawson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

P. Dawson
Trip Leader, Head of Geography & Year 12