



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

Dw/ce

16 March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

SKI TRIP – AUSTRIA 2024: Years 9, 10 (Current Years 8, 9)

I am in the process of finalising the school ski trip for February Half-term 2024 (students currently in Years 8, 9 and 11). The trip will once again be to the Katchberg Pass region of Austria.

Update on the 2023 Ski Trip Experience

Having spoken to the ski company, Absolute Skiwise, it is evident that the landscape for international travel in Europe has changed significantly. This is primarily as a result of rising costs, which in the main are due to unprecedented rises in fuel costs but also due to more generic rising costs for food and living costs. This has meant that the cost of travelling by coach has significantly increased by over £250 for February 2024. What hasn't increased, to anything like the same level, is flights. As a result it is now only slightly more expensive to fly than it is to take a 27 hour coach journey (whereby the coaches and drivers would then largely be sat around for the majority of the next 6 days). The flight option also means the students will arrive far less tired, so will hopefully have more energy for skiing and also for returning to school after the trip.

2024 Trip

If you would like your child to be considered for a place on the 2024 Ski Trip then please register your interest using the Form on EduLink by the 24th March 2023.

We will then be able to determine how many people have shown a firm commitment and begin offering out places. We have up to 100 places available but if the trip is oversubscribed then we will hold a random draw to determine who the places are to be offered to (as per the school policy approved by the Trustees). If offered a place then we will require prompt payment of a £285, as detailed below.

The trip will leave on Saturday 17th February 2024 and return on Saturday 24th February 2024 and the tour company is once again '*Absolute Skiwise*'.

The total cost of the trip will be £1,685 (payable in instalments with the full amount due by the end of November 2023). This will include flights, coach transfers from Hitchin Boys' to Heathrow, transfers to the hotel in Austria, full board hotel accommodation, ski and boot hire (including ski poles and helmet), 6 days skiing that includes a ski pass and four hours of ski lessons per day with qualified instructors, evening après ski (including visits to the Lucky Flitzer and a local swimming baths with slides - <https://www.thermeamade.at/en/>). The only anticipated additional cost will be spending money, possible option of a tour hoodie and purchasing or hiring of any ski clothing. Austria allows UK residents to visit for up to 90 days in any 180 day period for free so there is no

Head Teacher: Mr F Moane

**Ofsted
Outstanding
2021/2022**

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VISA required. The hiring of ski clothing can be ordered or booked nearer the departure date with details provided on the trip evening (Date TBC in December 2023). We will also be once again staying at the [Basecamp Hotel](#) in Katchberg that offers door to door skiing.

So that you can help decide whether this trip is viable financially I confirm that the payment schedule for those offered a place will be as follows:

Initial Deposit	£285
Wednesday 31 May	£350 (taking total payment up to £635)
Friday 14 July	£350 (taking total payment up to £985)
Friday 29 September	£350 (taking total payment up to £1,335)
Friday 1 December	£350 (taking total payment to the final balance of £1,685)

The final date for your account to be settled is Friday 1 December 2023.

Please note that if offered a place you can pay any amount at any time using WisePay to keep on track of the payment schedule.

The School reserves the right to withdraw a student from the trip if their behaviour in school is unacceptable.

Every pupil will be insured through a Travel Insurance Policy. More details on how this will work will be provided to those students who gain a place on the trip.

We are unable to offer financial assistance for this trip.

If you would like to know any more about the trip, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school (pdawson@hitchinboys.co.uk) or Mrs Eidmans our Trips Coordinator.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P. Dawson
(Trip Leader)