

February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Iceland 2019

The Geography Department are planning to take 40 of our current Year 8 & 9 students to Iceland for 4 nights in order to enhance their GCSE Geography study. The dates are from the 10 - 14 April 2019.

Flight times will be arranged nearer the date once I have given full confirmation to the tour operator. This trip will provide a wide range of opportunities for your child including:-

- A swim in the geothermal waters of the Secret Lagoon
- A thrilling hike (involving crampons and ice axes!) on the Solheimajokul glacier
- Visits to two active volcanoes (Eyjafjallajokull & Hekla)
- A two hour boat trip to (hopefully) watch some of Iceland's whales!
- Observations of unique landscapes including waterfalls, craters, geysers and valleys
- An exploration of the world's most northern capital city, Reykjavik
- Evening activities including swimming and an escape room.

The 5 day visit will be organised by the tour operator Discover the World. The tour will be led by four members of Downlands staff and an experienced tour guide who will remain with the party throughout each of the planned excursions.

The total cost of the trip is yet to be confirmed, I am hopeful that it will be around £960, but it could be slightly higher or lower. I am assured it will not exceed £990. This includes transfer from Reykjavik airports, flights, four nights' accommodation in 2/3* hotels and hostels, excursions, full insurance and all meals. Please note, this does not include transport to and from Gatwick which we request parents arrange independently. We will have a confirmed price in April 2019 when the airlines release their prices. Due to the inclusivity of the trip, very minimal spending money will be required for students; this will solely be for souvenirs and any extra snacks.

We expect this trip to be popular and if more than 40 students apply, we will pull names out of a hat. Current Year 9 students will have priority for the 2019 trip; any unsuccessful Year 8 students will automatically gain a place on the 2020 trip. **Please do not send any money at this stage.** I will inform students who are successful by letter on the 26 February when we will request a deposit of £100.

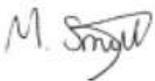
We will be putting a payment schedule in place in order to break down the payments. As we do not have the final price yet, the payment plan will start as below then I will confirm the remainder when I have final details.

- Deposit of £100 by 5 March 2018
- Second deposit of £100 by 23 March 2018

If your son/daughter would like to attend this trip, please complete and return the reply slip overleaf to the Trips Box, FAO Mr M Smith, by **Friday 23 February**.

If you have any questions about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Smith
Trip Leader

Please return to the Trips Box, FAO Mr M Smith by Friday 23 February 2018

Iceland 10 April - 14 April 2019

Student: Tutor Group:

I would like my son/daughter to attend the 2019 trip to Iceland and if successful in gaining a place, I will forward the deposit of £100 by 5 March 2018.

The school has taken out a School Journey Insurance Policy underwritten by AIG Insurance Plc for each pupil attending this activity, though claims arising from a pre-existing condition are exempt. The policy includes fixed levels of benefits in respect of Personal Accident and Personal Property. A copy of the policy schedule is available upon request. Any claim made under this policy does not affect your statutory rights.

In respect of legal liability please note the school cannot be held responsible for any loss unless negligent.

Signed: (Parent/Carer)