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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

25 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Cancellation of Ski trip February 2021 – move to February 2022

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for your patience and support during this difficult time. Giving your child the opportunity to travel and enjoy our ski trip has remained a priority of mine, with something to look forward to. Unfortunately, The Department For Education's advice remains the same, *Government advises schools and colleges to cancel overseas trips. Schools and colleges are being advised against all overseas trips for children under 18 until further notice.* The advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is they *advise against all but essential travel to Austria.*

The tour operator will not cancel our trip until approximately a week before departure, as the FCO advice may change between now and then for Austria. Our insurance company will not accept claims after 18 December and will not include payments made to tour operators from July 2020. We, as a school, must follow the DFE advice and could therefore lose all money paid to date. With the final balance due for the ski trip, we cannot take the risk of losing this and have therefore decided to postpone this trip to February 2022.

As a gesture of goodwill, the tour operator has agreed to move the second deposit we have paid, to the trip in February 2022 and they are currently working on the price for 2022. We don't envisage it to be a large variation in the current trip price. We will however need to process an insurance claim for the first deposit. This will then go to the 2022 trip. We believe, based on what we have been advised that a claim should be processed, so you will not lose out financially.

Please can you email Mrs Fairbank, Trips Co-ordinator to confirm that you will move your child to the 2022 ski trip, or if you would like to remove them from the trip. If you move your child, the funds you have already paid will be moved to 2022 and a new payment schedule will be advised. If you wish to remove your child from the ski trip for 2022, refunds will be made to you, subject to the insurance claim for the first deposit. Please note that insurance claims can take 3-4 months to process with our insurance company due to the high demand at this time. A small deduction of £1 will be taken from refunds to go towards our bank charges, which we incur on payments received and refunds made.

As we need to finalise this quite urgently, please email sfairbank@downlands.org by **Thursday 1st October to confirm your child's place for 2022 or remove them from the trip.** Please advise your child's name in the email. **If we do not hear from you we will automatically move your child to the ski trip in 2022.**

We are obviously very disappointed that this trip cannot go ahead in February, and I am sure that your child will be too, but we feel this is the right decision to make at this time. We didn't want to go ahead with a trip that possibly wouldn't live up to expectations due to the new restrictions or risk being cancelled at the last minute. We very much look forward to planning our Ski trip for 2022.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Calvert
Achievement Leader Year 9
Teacher of History & Religious Studies

