

1st October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Iceland Trip 2026

The Geography department are pleased to launch the 2026 trip to Iceland to the current Y9. The trip will run from **Saturday 28th March to Wednesday 1st April 2026**. This is during the start of the Easter Holidays. This trip will provide a wide range of opportunities for your child, whilst the itinerary is fluid, previous trips have included:

- 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
- Evening activities including swimming and an escape room.
- Hopefully, a chance to see the Northern Lights.

The 5 day visit will be organised by the tour operator Discover the World. The tour will be led by seven 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 £1,440. This includes transfer from Reykjavik airports, flights, four nights' accommodation in 3* hotels and hostels, excursions, full insurance and all meals. 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.

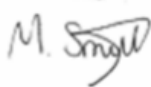
The trip will be solely for students who are planning to study GCSE Geography. Whilst students may not have made their final decision regarding their options yet, we ask you to indicate your likeliness on the form below. This trip is always oversubscribed so those planning to study GCSE Geography will have first preference for the trip. Furthermore, if you indicate that your child is 'definitely' going to study GCSE Geography and this does not happen during the options process, we do reserve the right to remove them from the trip and revert to our reserve list.

Furthermore, we are aware that the 2026 Football Tour has recently launched to parents. Whilst we will endeavour to ensure fair allocation of trips, we are not able to prioritize or guarantee places. If places allow, students are able to attend both trips. However, if your child is only able to attend one of these trips, you are welcome to apply for both trips and then make your decision after places have been announced. Please note, once deposits have been paid for a trip, these are non-refundable and you will be liable for the full cost of the trip unless a replacement can be found (£150 is non-refundable in all cases).

If you would like to sign your child up for this trip, please complete the below survey by **9am on Friday 9th October**. We will confirm places the following week and at this point you will be asked to make £150 deposit payment on SCOPAY by **Monday 4th November**. Please do not send any monies until your place has been confirmed.

[Survey link](#)

If you have any questions about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me on msmith@downlands.org



Mr M Smith - Trip Leader – Trips Coordinator