

16th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 8&9,

Downlands Ski Trip 2026

The school ski trip in 2026 will take place from **Friday 13th February to Saturday 21st February 2026** and is open to Year 9&10 (current Year 8&9). We will be staying at the Guesthouse Felseralm in Obertauern, Austria, which is a bespoke young person's establishment. www.obertauern.com www.felseralm.at

I have currently recording a video presentation to give you a little more contextual information on what a Downlands Ski Trip looks like, this will be sent in due course.

We do accept **Snowboarders** on the ski trip, however in order for us to be able to do so, the group must have a minimum number with the same ability. If we can form a group of boarders, there is an additional premium due to the increased risk of injury, this is usually £50.

The cost of the Ski trip is £1,750 (£1800 if Snowboarding). This includes coach travel from and back to Downlands, full board accommodation, boot, ski and helmet hire, lift passes, 6 full days skiing, 5 - hour ski lessons daily and comprehensive travel insurance. An evening entertainment programme will be organised which may on occasion require additional funding (if required, this will be advised nearer the time).

Due to the potentially hazardous nature of this trip, should a pupil's conduct become an issue between acceptance of a place and departure, the school reserves the right to withdraw a pupil from the trip. In this case, payments received in line with the payment schedule will NOT BE REFUNDED unless the school finds a suitable child to take their place.

DATES: Friday 13th February - Saturday 21st February 2026
COMPANY: Skibound
INSURANCE: Fully comprehensive travel insurance, including medical for outside the UK.
TRAVEL: Coach from Downlands and return. Ferry crossing.
SKIING: Lift pass covers large skiing area - suitable for beginners, intermediates and advanced skiers.

PASSPORT: All pupils are required to hold their own passport, which must be valid for 3 months after our return date. Please note the valid date is not the same as the expiry date, so passports need to be valid for 5 years (if you have a 5 year passport) from the valid date.

FITNESS: If accepted on the trip, pupils should be prepared to achieve a reasonable degree of fitness.

HELMETS: All pupils must wear helmets whilst skiing - this is the law. Helmets are provided at resort.

PAYMENT: A £200 non-refundable (in any instance) deposit once accepted on this trip, payable via SCOPAY.

We understand that should the level of interest be high there may be some disappointment. We have created a fair and equitable selection process, then the drawing of names from a hat until an equal number of boys and girls are randomly selected. If we are over subscribed then we will run a reserve list which will run until the departure date!

Should your child be accepted on the trip, we will require a £200 deposit, which is non-refundable. This will be due for payment via SCOPAY by **9am 8th November**. To confirm your child's place we will use your deposit to make payment to the travel company. Regular payments are required of us, therefore we expect parents to keep up to date with our payment schedule (to be advised in confirmation letter).

To apply for a place, please complete form below by 22nd **October 2024 at 9am**. Successful applicants will be informed around the 25th October.

[Ski 2026 - Application Form](#)

Please note

The tour company reserve the right to re-cost our tour should the regulatory advice from the local or UK Government change, specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, which subsequently means a potential change to their expected operating practices either at our destination or on our journey. Any proposed amendment to our tour price as a result would be advised to you in advance.

The tour price is based on a minimum of 60 full paying passengers. If numbers should fall below these numbers the tour company reserve the right to re-cost the tour, this means that all deposits/payments are non-refundable to go towards this costing, if however there is excess then this amount will be refunded to you. To cover this repricing so not to effect other parents (i.e. the price will not increase), the payment and cancellation schedule will be advised in confirmation of a place on the trip. Cancellation of a child's place for all reasons other than medical (excluding Covid-19) is treated as disinclination to travel. Should a child be removed from the trip by the school or parents for any reason, including but not limited to, behaviour, exclusion, changing school, the cost of the trip remains parental responsibility.

The ski trip is one of the greatest school trips, so we look forward to enjoying this week with your child.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Calvert
Ski Trip Leader and Head of Year 9