

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Ski Trip to Saalbach, Austria - February half term 2023

It is very nearly the day that students were originally set to be heading to Austria for a week on the slopes. Sadly COVID-19 and insurance limitations put a stop to our plans and we were all very disappointed.

During the last couple of months, I have been in contact with Snowsports England, along with various school travel providers, and have been watching travel requirements very closely. I am pleased that school travel to Europe has once again become viable for us and therefore we are now able to go ahead with a school ski trip booking, albeit a year later than we originally planned.

As a student who had secured a place on the original, cancelled ski trip your child gets first priority to book a spot on the trip for next year. Please act fast however, as in order to secure our booking we need to pay deposits to the tour operator so any un-booked available places will be released to all students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 on Thursday 17th February.

The preliminary booking is reserved through PGL to go to Saalbach - Hinterglemm in Austria, a fantastic resort with numerous ski slopes for all abilities, spectacular scenery, and a wide range of local culture to explore. The hotel we have reserved is called "Gasthof Zur Post" and is situated at the base of the valley in a small, traditional Austrian mountain town called Maishofen.

Travel to the resort will be via executive coach direct from Beaminster with a Dover to Calais ferry crossing. Having done many coach and self-drive trips to the Alps, I have always found getting on a coach in England and stepping off the coach in the Austrian Alps is a surprisingly stress-free and relaxing way to travel. Stops en-route at random fascinating places, various films for entertainment, a comfy pillow and your friends around you makes the journey a big part of the trip itself for students.

I have tried to make the trip as inclusive as possible by making sure everything students require for an excellent all-round experience is included:

- Full board accommodation - breakfast, lunch and dinner each day - staying in a 3 star hotel.
- **Sole occupancy** of our hotel with en-suite facilities for all rooms
- 6 day ski pass and ski rental (with helmets, skis, boots and poles)
- 5 hours of ski tuition each day with an hour supervised lunch break
- Evening entertainment for students
- Ski and travel insurance (please see further information below).

The total cost for the trip for 2023 is **£1200** per student. This cost has increased by just £50 compared to our original cancelled trip and the previous ski trip which last went in 2019, and this increase in price is down to increased insurance and travel costs. I appreciate this is a substantial sum of money. However, I do believe this offers good value for an all-inclusive ski package during February half term. An initial deposit of £100 is required to book a place on the trip and to reserve your place please pay the deposit via ParentMail+Pay. If you want a guaranteed spot this payment must be made before the remaining available places are offered out to other students on 17th February.

Please note, any student currently in Year 11 will need to be part of Beaminster School 6th form in order to go on the trip.

Ski and Travel insurance is included through PGL as well as our school policy. We have attached a copy of the PGL insurance with this letter. The school insurance will cover cancellation for medical reasons but will not cover cancellation due to COVID-19. Given the current situation, we recommend you investigate additional insurance to cover all eventualities.

Important COVID-19 travel requirements

Nobody can say for certain if any travel restrictions will be in place next winter. Restrictions do continue to lift, however, I have planned the trip based on current travel requirements to Austria (via France and Germany). This currently involves travellers aged 12+ having received the full course of the COVID-19 vaccinations and attaining a PCR for travel within 72 hours before entry to Austria.

Please note, any cost of a fit to travel PCR has not been factored into the trip as we do not know if it will be necessary next year. I do expect countries to be asking for all persons aged 12+ to be vaccinated as a condition of entry for the foreseeable future so please keep this in mind if you intend to reserve a place on the trip. Students will also require other standard travel documentation such as a valid passport and GHIC card in their own name.

Once places have been allocated on the trip, I will keep you informed of any further information.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Crossland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Mr Crossland
Ski Trip 2023 Leader
Head of Science