

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

GEOGRAPHY/GEOLOGY TRIP TO ICELAND 1-5 JULY 2018

I am writing to inform you of an exciting trip on offer to Iceland for Year 12 Geography and Geology students which will take place in July 2018. The trip is planned for during the Sixth Form enrichment period leaving on Sunday 1 July 2018. We will travel with the specialist education tour company ***Discover the World Education***.

We have run this trip for a number of years and have had excellent feedback from students and parents. This really is a superb chance to experience one of the most tectonically active environments on earth. We will visit major geographical and geological landforms such as active volcanoes, geysers, geothermal hot springs and waterfalls. The trip has a busy day-time itinerary and is very much based outdoors so students need to be prepared to enjoy the opportunity, regardless of the weather.

Students need to be well-prepared with outdoor clothing such as walking shoes and good waterproofs (top and trousers). On one of the days a 2-3 hour hike through a very remote valley of a unique volcanic region is planned. This day includes walking through the rocky and uneven terrain of a solidified lava field. The trip will also include horse riding, a swim in the Blue Lagoon, and a boat journey to a nearby volcanic island. All excursions will be included in the price of the trip.

To reduce travelling, the trip involves staying at three different hotels. The tour style nature of the trip means full student participation is required in all activities. Student safety and well-being is paramount and we ask that parents consider how their child will enjoy and cope with the outdoor activities, long days and remote locations that are an exciting but unavoidable aspect of this trip. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me. All meals are provided including breakfast and evening meal within the hotels and packed lunches are provided for excursions.

The cost of the trip for 2018 is dependent on the numbers participating, however the estimated cost will be in the region of £1180.00 to £1240.00. If you wish your son/daughter to take part in this excellent opportunity to enrich their learning and to give them memories to last forever, please send in a **non-refundable deposit for £200.00**. Our preferred method of payment for this trip is via ParentPay. Cheques will still be accepted and should be made payable to St Aidan's School. Whatever your method of payment, please complete and the attached consent slip and return it to the Finance Department at school (with your deposit cheque if applicable). **All deposits must be paid by 09:00 on Monday 16 October 2017 as flights are currently being held.**

Future payments will be due on Friday 8 December 2017 (£320.00), Friday 9 February 2018 (£320.00) and Friday 13 April (£340.00-£400.00 approximately) and reminder letters will be sent out.

Please note that if your son/daughter chooses to withdraw from the trip, we are unable to refund the deposit and subsequent payments unless a replacement student is found as we have to make staged payments to ***Discover the World***.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and St John Fisher. When accompanying children on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that pupils are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip, the school staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

The school will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the wellbeing of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the pupil onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the trip leader, the head of year and senior staff. Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip then, if in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, staff have concerns again about the pupil's participation in the trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any enquiries about the trip.

Regards

Mrs S Stone
Geography Department

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Geography/Geology Trip to Iceland 1-5 July 2018

To be returned by all students

I consent for my son/daughter to take part in the trip to Iceland, and I **enclose a cheque/ParentPay (please delete)** to cover the initial deposit of £200.00. I understand that this deposit and subsequent payments are non-refundable unless a replacement student is found.

Full name of student Tutor Group
(as per passport)

Parent/Guardian Date

The consent form (and cheque if not paying by ParentPay) should be handed into the Finance Office by 09:00 on Monday 16 October 2017