

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Geography Trip to Iceland, Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July 2020

I am writing to inform you of an exciting trip on offer to Iceland for Year 12 Geography students, which will take place at the end of June 2020. The trip is planned for during the Sixth Form enrichment period leaving on Monday 29 June and returning on Friday 3 July 2020.

We will travel with the specialist education tour company **Discover the World Education** and 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 2020 is dependent on the numbers participating; however, the estimated cost will be in the region of £1250.00 to £1350.00. 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**. The trip should now be showing on your ParentPay account.

Please complete the attached consent slip and return it to either Mrs Stone or Mr Davis. **All deposits must be paid by Friday 27 September 2019 as flights are currently being held.** Future payments will be due December 2019, February 2020 and April 2020 and we will send out a reminder email or letter confirming the amount. Please contact Mrs Holey (h.holey@staidans.co.uk) at St Aidan's if you need a ParentPay activation code for St Aidan's.

Please note that unless we can find a replacement, **deposits and subsequent payments will not be refunded** if a student chooses to withdraw from the trip, or is no longer a member of Associated Sixth Form at the time of the trip, as we have to make interim payments to the tour company. I would be grateful therefore if you could discuss this opportunity with your son/daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are **fully committed to the trip**.

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and St John Fisher. When accompanying students 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.

Once the deadline of Friday 27 September 2019 has passed, we will look at the behaviour, attendance and the wellbeing of each student who has signed up and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Heads of Year and Senior Staff. If we decide the trip is not suitable for your son or daughter, we will inform you in writing and deposits in this case will be refunded.

Once a student has been accepted onto a trip if, in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, there are concerns again about the pupil's participation on the trip, **the Heads of the Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place and any payments made may not be refunded.**

If you have any queries about the trip, or if meeting the initial deadline for payment presents a problem, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Collins, the Trips Administrator on 01423 818527.

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

Regards

Mrs S Stone
Head of Geography
St Aidan's High School

Mr P Davis
Head of Geography
St John Fisher High School

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Geography/ Trip to Iceland

To be returned by all students Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July 2020

I consent for my son/daughter to take part in the trip to Iceland, and I have paid the initial deposit of £200.00 on ParentPay. 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 should be given to Mrs Stone or Mr Davis by Friday 27 September 2019.