

September 2022

Dear Student and Parent

Year 12 Trip to Iceland, Wednesday 5 July to Sunday 9 July 2023

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 2023. The trip is planned for during the Sixth Form enrichment period leaving on **Wednesday 5 July to Sunday 9 July 2023**.

We will travel with the specialist education tour company **Discover the World Education** and have run this trip for many years and received 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 Icelandic weather. We have previously experienced torrential rain, snow and glorious sunshine.

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 which includes walking through the rocky and uneven terrain of a solidified lava field. The trip will include a swim in the Blue Lagoon, a boat journey to a nearby volcanic island and we are also hoping to include horse riding (activities may be subject to change). All excursions will be included in the price of the trip and are compulsory.

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.

St Aidan's ParentPay

The trip is limited to 30 students across the Associated Sixth Form. The trip will only be available to pay on St Aidan's ParentPay. If you do not have access to St Aidan's ParentPay for your son/daughter, please contact Mrs Holey, h.holey@staidans.co.uk, before Tuesday 4 October 2022 to request the necessary activation codes. Please be sure to include your son/daughter's name in the email.

To give parents time to discuss this visit and other trips on offer in the Associated Sixth Form with their son/daughter, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open on **Wednesday 5 October at 13:00 and close at 09:00 on Monday 17 October 2022**. The cost of the trip is dependent on the number of students that attend; however, we anticipate the cost will be in the region of £1300.00-£1400.00. If your son or daughter is interested in a place, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £200.00 on the **St Aidan's ParentPay by Monday 17 October 2022**.

Places on the trip will be allocated via ParentPay on a first-come, first-served basis by receipt of online payment. Once all the places have been filled, please note you will not be able to sign up for the trip or pay the deposit, even if it is before the deadline of Monday 17 October 2022. Please then email Mrs McDonald,



ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM



the Trips Administrator, (L.McDonald@staidans.co.uk) and she will create a waiting list based on the date and time of your email in case of any cancellations.

The final price will be confirmed in April 2023 once we know the number of students attending and the three remaining instalment payments will be due by the end of December 2022, end of February 2023 and the end of April 2023. Reminder emails will be sent out to parents together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online, you are agreeing for your son/daughter to take part on the trip, the cost, and confirming that their medical details which we hold at school are up to date.

Important Financial Information

Please note that all payments made for this trip are non-refundable, as we must make regular payments to the tour operator, Discover the World. However, if the trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, full refunds will be given (please see Covid-19 section below). Whilst we offer a payment schedule for the trip, please note that after Monday 17 October 2022, you will be required to pay the full price of the trip if your child withdraws, unless together we can find a replacement student. This is due to the cancellation charges imposed on us by Discover the World. For that reason, we ask that you take the time to discuss the trip in detail with your son or daughter prior to paying the deposit to ensure that they are fully committed to the trip.

Covid-19

As you will be aware, the Associated Sixth Form takes the current Covid-19 pandemic very seriously and the safety and well-being of all our students and staff is always paramount. After many discussions with Discover the World, we are confident that they are continually monitoring Government guidance regarding Covid-19.

Behaviour

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that the success of previous trips to Iceland has been due in part to the excellent conduct of our students. Those who take part in this visit must recognise that this is a school trip, and they must behave accordingly. Whilst the hotel we are staying in and restaurants we visit will sell alcohol, please note that Associated Sixth Form students will not be allowed to purchase or drink alcohol during the trip. We ask parents to reinforce these points with their daughter/son.

Once the deadline of Monday 17 October 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 the demands of the trip. The decision to allow the students to participate will be taken between the Trip Leader, the Heads of the Associated Sixth Form 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 student's participation on the trip, the Heads of the Associated Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw the student'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 us or Mrs McDonald.

Regards



ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM



Mrs S Stone

ST AIDAN'S & ST JOHN FISHER, HARROGATE

Head of Geography, St Aidan's

