

September 2023

Dear Student and Parent

### **Year 12 Trip to Iceland, Wednesday 3 July to Sunday 7 July 2024**

Following the success of our Iceland trip earlier this year, we are delighted to be able to offer this trip again in July 2024 to the Year 12 Geography students. The trip will take place during the Sixth Form enrichment period leaving on **Wednesday 3 July and returning on Sunday 7 July 2024**.

#### **Brief Outline of the Trip**

This trip has been running for many years with the specialised company 'Discover the World Education' and we continually receive excellent feedback from students, parents, and staff. The trip offers a superb chance to experience one of the most tectonic 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; students need to be prepared to enjoy this opportunity, regardless of the Icelandic weather and we have previously experienced torrential rain, snow, and glorious sunshine!

Students will require outdoor clothing such as walking shoes and a good waterproof top and trousers as one day a 2-3 hour hike is planned through a very remote valley in a unique volcanic region. This includes walking through the rocky and uneven terrain of a solidified lava field. The trip will include swimming in the Blue Lagoon and a boat journey to a nearby volcanic island (although activities may be subject to change depending on the weather). All excursions are compulsory and 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. As the safety and well-being of our students is paramount, we ask parents to carefully consider how their child will enjoy and cope with the outdoor activities, the long days and the remote locations that are an exciting but unavoidable aspect of this trip before committing to the deposit.

Accommodation is full board with packed lunches provided for our excursions. The trip is limited to 50 students across the Associated Sixth Form.

#### **Cost**

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 £1350.00-£1450.00 which is fully inclusive of:

- Flights from Manchester Airport with Iceland Air
- UK and overseas transfers
- All excursions
- Full board accommodation for 5 days and 4 nights
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance

### St Aidan's ParentPay / How to Reserve a Place

To give parents time to discuss the Iceland trip with their child in conjunction with the other trip opportunities available in the Associated Sixth Form, the St Aidan's ParentPay will open at 13:00 on Monday 2 October 2023 and close at 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023.

Please note the trip is **not** available on the St John Fisher's ParentPay. If you require an activation code for the St Aidan's ParentPay, please email [parentpay@staidans.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@staidans.co.uk) prior to Monday 2 October 2023. It is important to include your child's name in the email.

Following your discussions, if your child would like to apply for a place on the trip, please pay the first non-refundable deposit of £350.00 **by Friday 6 October 2023**.

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

Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the deposit payment is received by 16:00 on Friday 6 October 2023, all students will have an equal chance of being successful.

If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator and parents will be advised on **Tuesday 10 October 2023** only if their child does not have a place. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage.

### Instalment Payments

The final price of the trip will be confirmed in April 2024 when we have the final numbers of students attending and the associated costs of the trip. The payments are as follows:

Deposit payment	£350.00 by Friday 6 October 2023
2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	£300.00 by Friday 1 December 2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> payment	£400.00 by Friday 1 March 2024
Final payment	£400.00 approximately by Friday 26 April 2024

Reminder emails will be sent to parents before each deadline date together with any additional information that may be required for the trip.

### Important Financial Information

Please note that payments made for this trip are non-refundable as we are bound by the booking conditions of our suppliers.

Whilst we offer instalment payments for the trip, please note that if your child withdraws after Friday 6 October 2023, you will be required to pay any cancellation charges unless a replacement student can be found. We therefore ask that you take the time to discuss this trip in detail with your child to make sure they are fully committed before you make any payment.

As financial pressures rise, we have been asked by some parents if they can support with the funding of trips for students who may not otherwise be able to afford to go. We do not currently have the means to

facilitate this through ParentPay however, if you do wish to make a voluntary donation which will be put towards the cost of funding another student on the trip, please contact our Finance Manager via email at [E.Amos@staidans.co.uk](mailto:E.Amos@staidans.co.uk).

### **Passports**

Students will need their own valid passport with at least 6 months remaining before the expiry date at the time of the trip together with an EHIC/GHIC card. Please note if your child does not hold a British passport, it is your responsibility to request the relevant visas to travel to Europe.

### **Behaviour**

School residential trips form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's and when accompanying students on a school trip, staff are acting *in loco parentis* just as they do in school. Trips away from the normal school environment involve considering different routines and environments and students must be able to demonstrate an increased level of responsibility and maturity. To participate in any trip, the school staff must be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

Please note this trip operates a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol. We reserve the right to send home any student who we regard as having breached this rule which may require contacting parents to collect their child. The Headteacher would like to make clear that failure to observe this rule will potentially jeopardise a student's place in the Sixth Form.

Should you have any queries about the trip prior to paying the deposit or have concerns about making the deposit payment at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs McDonald, the Trips Administrator, ([t.mcdonald@staidans.uk](mailto:t.mcdonald@staidans.uk)) or myself. ([a.lennox@staidans.co.uk](mailto:a.lennox@staidans.co.uk)).

Regards

Mrs A Lennox  
Head of Geography