

18 September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student

Year 12 Trip to Iceland, Wednesday 2nd July to Sunday 6th July 2025

Following the success of our Iceland trip earlier this year, we are delighted to be able to offer this trip again in July 2025 to all Year 12 students studying Geography across the Associated Sixth Form. The trip will take place during the Sixth Form enrichment period leaving on Wednesday 2nd July and returning on Sunday 6th July 2025.

Brief Outline of the Trip

This trip has been running for many years with the specialist 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 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; students need to be prepared to enjoy this opportunity, regardless of the Icelandic weather. 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 also include swimming in the Blue Lagoon, a boat journey to a nearby volcanic island (although activities may be subject to change depending on the weather) and a visit to a Geothermal Power Station. All excursions are compulsory and included in the price of the trip.

To reduce travelling, the trip involves staying at two 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 33 St students.

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 £1450.00 - £1600.00 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

How to Reserve a Place

If your child would like to apply for a place on the trip the consent form will open at **5pm on Wednesday 18th September 2024 and close at 12 Noon on Wednesday 25 September 2024**. The form can be accessed for you to [APPLY HERE](#)

If your child is selected to take part in the trip, you will be notified by **Thursday 26 September**.

Please note places on this trip are not allocated on a first come-first served basis; if the online form is completed by 12 Noon on Wednesday 25th September 2024, all students will have an equal chance of being selected for the trip. If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by members of the Senior Leadership Team using a random generator. A waiting list will then be created for any student who is unsuccessful at this stage. We will notify all students who have shown interest in the trip and confirm if they have a place or have been put on a waiting list.

Deposit

A nonrefundable deposit of £100.00 is due by Wednesday 2 October 2024

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 the trip is not available on the St John Fisher's ParentPay. If you are a St John Fishers student, please email parentpay@staidans.co.uk the week beginning the 23 September requesting an activation code for the St Aidan's ParentPay. It is important to include your child's name in the email.

Instalment Payments

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

Deposit payment - £100.00 by Wednesday 2nd October 2024

2nd payment - £375.00 by Friday 29th November 2024

3rd payment - £375.00 by Friday 31st January 2025

4th payment - £375.00 by Monday 3rd March 2025

Final payment - £375.00 approximately by Friday 30 May 2025

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 4th October 2024, 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 finance@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 GHIC card. Please note if your child does not hold a British passport, it is your responsibility to request the relevant visas to travel within Europe to Iceland.

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 Goold, the Trips Administrator, (trips@staidans.uk) or myself (c.robinson@staidans.co.uk).

Kind regards,

Mrs C Robinson
Head of Geography
St Aidan's High School

Mr P Davis
Head of Geography
St John Fisher High School

