25th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that the school will be running a ski trip to the Andalo resort in Italy during February Half Term 2025.

The trip is open to students **currently** in Years 7, 8 and 9. Due to the proximity to exams when it runs next year, the trip will **not** be open to students **currently** in years 10 or 12. Students currently in year 11 *may* be eligible to attend the trip, however this will be dependent on whether they will be sitting any external examinations as part of their 6th Form studies during the next academic year. Any queries in relation to this should be directed towards Miss Dale.

The trip will cater for all standards of skiers, from complete novices to those that are more advanced. We have chosen Italy as we are familiar with the travel route off the Isle of Man and have the advantage of a direct flight through the company Topflight for Schools. The resort is high up and offers great quality slopes. It is only 10 minutes from the hotel which offers quality accommodation and a range of evening activities.

We estimate the cost of the trip to be approximately £1985.00.

Included in this price is:

* Return direct flights from the Isle of Man
* Transfers to and from the resort
* Resort taxes
* Full winter sport insurance
* Half board accommodation
* 6 days tuition, 4 hours per day with qualified ski instructors
* Full equipment hire (skis, boots, poles, helmets)
* Evening activities
* Souvenir ‘Hoodie’

Not included in the price are:

* Ski clothing (jacket, salopettes, gloves)
* Lunch money
* Personal spending money
* Snowboarding – Extra £42 per person minimum/11 people to be viable

If you would like your child to be part of this exciting trip, please detach, complete and return the **reply slip below along with and a valid copy of your child’s passport by Friday 26th April 2024. Applications will not be accepted without all the information being provided.**

Once we have all the names confirmed, deposits of £300 must be paid directly to Topflight for Schools via their Portal within 7 days of the email being received. A link for the portal will be sent to the email address provided on the reply slip.

**A copy of Topflight for Schools, Terms and Conditions can be found at:**

[**https://topflightforschools.ie/general-information/terms-and-conditions/**](https://topflightforschools.ie/general-information/terms-and-conditions/)

Further payments will be due on or before the following dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deposit to Topflight by Wednesday 8th May 2024 | £300 |
| Friday 28th June 2024 - Topflight | £240 |
| Wednesday 31st July 2024 - Topflight | £240 |
| Friday 30th August 2024 - Topflight | £240 |
| Monday 30th September 2024 - Topflight | £240 |
| Thursday 31st October 2024 – Topflight | £240 |
| Friday 29th November 2024 – Topflight | £229 |
| Tuesday 31st December 2024 - To School | £128 |
| Tuesday 28th January 2025 – To School | £128 |

Places are limited so please ensure your forms are returned on time to avoid disappointment. There will not be any extensions to the advertised deadlines. **The deposit is non-refundable once paid to our travel provider.**

**The amount payable to Topflight will be £1729.00**

**The remaining amount of £256 will be paid to cover costs for Apres Ski activities etc. This will be available to pay on ParentPay directly to Ballakermeen from October or before if required.**

If this trip is oversubscribed, a draw will take place and your son/daughter will be informed if he/she has been successful before deposits are required. All places will be confirmed via email. Please ensure your correct email address has been provided.

Staged payments are required by the tour operators once the trip has been booked and additional charges may be incurred if you withdraw your child from the trip at a later date. Every attempt will be made to find a replacement to offset the cost, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Please also note: Valid individual passports are a pre-requisite and the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure all travel requirements are met. For Italy, passports should be valid and in date for up to three months on the return travel date.

Please note that if your child’s passport has been issued outside of the Schengen Area and requires a Schengen Visa, this must be applied for six months before travel. If this is not obtained it will result in your child being unable to travel and additional charges may be incurred.

Passports will be collected from students nearer the time of the trip. In the meantime, **please supply a copy of the passport for our records**. We can photocopy the passport at the foyer if required.

**We would also like to invite you to a Parents Information Evening on Thursday 18th April at 6pm in the New Canteen if you would like to know more about this trip before committing.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the trip leader, Miss Dale on bhsenquiries@sch.im or 648700.

Yours faithfully



Miss Di Dale

Ski Trip Leader

**Reply Slip** **– Ski Trip 2025 - Andalo, Italy**

Detach and return with your passport copy and consent form, ensuring all fields are completed byFriday 26th April 2024.

**Student’s name ………………………………………….Tutor group…………………**

I would like my son/daughter to be considered for a place on the trip to Italy, February 2025.

I understand that once my child’s name has been provided to Topflight I am liable to pay the £300 deposit.

I understand that withdrawal from the trip may incur further costs in line with the travel agent’s cancellation policy.

I understand that my child’s passport must be in date and in line with the country of travel’s requirements.

If a Schengen Visa is required (for passports issued outside of the Schengen Area) I understand that it is my responsibility to travel in good time to the appropriate Embassy to obtain a Schengen Visa.

I enclose a **photocopy of my son/daughter’s passport** and the completed **parent/carer consent form for an educational visit.**

By signing up for this trip I give permission for my child’s details to be shared with travel and accommodation providers as required.

Behaviour Information

If any of the following behaviours are exhibited during the year, we will remove the right of any student to attend the Ski Trip on safety grounds (please note that the list is not exhaustive):

* Repeated failure to follow school rules
* Multiple suspensions over the course of the academic year
* Any action that puts the safety of staff or students at risk
* Physical assault
* Consuming, distributing or involvement with illegal substances during the school day (drugs and alcohol)
* Any other incident or event deemed suitably serious by the Headteacher

We hope students will be able to enjoy their experience and enjoy the opportunity offered to them.

**Signed (Parent/Carer) ………………………………..……… Date…………………………**

**Student………………………………………………… Date…………………………..**