



3 May 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Zauchensee Austria Ski Trip 31st Mar – 8th Apr 2023

We are pleased to inform you that we are planning to offer a ski trip to Austria for Year 10 students in the Easter Holidays 2023. The resort will be Zauchensee, situated in the Sportwelt Amade ski region.

We will be travelling to Austria by coach with Absolute SkiWise, a company which has many years' experience in the school ski trip sector. They are, of course, fully-regulated with stringent risk-assessment policies and legislation, and this trip will be planned in strict accordance with School and Local Authority requirements.

Our aim is to provide a cost-effective and exciting trip to allow all pupils the opportunity to travel to a foreign country and participate in a sport which could generate a lifelong interest. The students will receive expert tuition every day in small ability groups; whether your child is a complete beginner, or whether they have been lucky enough to have skied before, this trip will enable them to develop their skills and enjoy a fun-filled week in spectacular scenery. This trip is also a fantastic opportunity for our students to sample Austrian culture and cuisine, as well as learning some basic Austrian / German phrases.

The cost of the trip is expected to be approximately **£1200**, which includes return coach travel from the Piggott School to the resort in Zauchensee, ski and helmet hire, lift passes and all meals whilst at the resort. Please note that the cost of the trip does not include meals in transit, spending money or ski clothes.

A payment scheme will be put into place so that the expense can be spread over the forthcoming months, with the final balance needing to be cleared by January. Should the numbers participating fall below the required figure then there will either be an increase in the cost or if there is insufficient interest, the trip will not take place. Students in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium may be eligible for support towards the cost of the trip – please contact me if you wish to request financial assistance.

Your child's eligibility to travel remains your responsibility. There have been many changes to international travel since both the pandemic and Brexit, and we must therefore bring your attention to some of the relevant issues for your consideration. This means that you must be aware of the following:

- Your child must have a valid passport with at least 6 months remaining on it and you are responsible for checking entry requirements and restrictions, particularly those for non-UK passports. Should a visa be required, you will be responsible for obtaining one. To check travel requirements, please visit: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- If eligible, your child should have a GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). The GHIC arrangements replace the old EHICs. If your child is eligible for a GHIC, but does not hold one, then our insurance will not cover the costs of any medical treatment that would have been provided for free had a card been used. Please note that if your child has a valid EHIC, it can continue to be used until it expires. For further information visit: www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/
- If any testing (such as a PCR) or certification is required at the time of travel, you will be responsible for any additional costs involved and for ensuring your child has the correct documentation in the format required for travel. This applies even if no such requirements were in place at the time of booking.

- If any country that we are travelling to, or transiting through, requires passengers to be fully vaccinated then our insurance will not cover the cost of cancellation for any unvaccinated passengers if there has been sufficient time to obtain the required vaccinations. Unless your child holds a medical exemption, choosing not to vaccinate would be considered as 'disinclination to travel'.
- If a period of self-isolation or quarantine be required either by the destination country, or the UK upon return, we would not be covered for any associated costs such as quarantine in a government approved facility or loss of earnings.
- We will closely monitor and follow all travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Local rules can sometimes change at very short notice. We are fully insured for cancellation and curtailment arising from changes in travel rules if our trips are booked in accordance with travel rules in place at the time of booking. Parents must be aware that while we will endeavour to give you the most accurate information available to us, any subsequent changes are out of our control and do have the potential to disrupt the trip and affect its cost, therefore your flexibility and understanding of this is appreciated.

If you wish for your child to be considered for a place on this trip, please complete the online 'Expression of Interest' form **by 3pm on Friday 6th May 2023**. The link to the form is: <https://forms.gle/ACzWu6tPwyfZreug8>

The nature of the trip will require the highest standards of behaviour and discipline for the safety and enjoyment of all. We are expecting demand to be extremely high. If the trip is oversubscribed, places will normally be allocated by means of a random draw. In exceptional circumstances we reserve the right to not consider applications from pupils where there are concerns that their conduct may compromise the safety of the trip. This situation is extremely rare, and decisions would be made by the pastoral leads and the senior leadership team as appropriate.

If your child has been successful in obtaining a place, I will inform you by letter within two weeks of the application deadline.

There will be a parental information evening prior to the trip, several detailed letters and a comprehensive information pack for students and parents which will be issued once numbers are finalised. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at school via telephone or e-mail if you have any immediate questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Williams
Party Leader (PE) – williamsr@piggottschool.org



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