



10th June 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 13 - Iceland October half-term 2022

We are delighted to announce that Discover the World, the company who provide our trips to Iceland, have space for a trip from **20th – 25th October 2022**.

Pupils will spend 5 days and 5 nights exploring the south of Iceland encountering stunning landscapes including glaciers, volcanoes and some of the world's most impressive waterfalls. In addition, pupils will experience the unique culture of Iceland and learn about its fascinating history. Pupils are accompanied by the Piggott staff (mainly from the Geography department) as well as an expert guide. The trip has strong links to the geography specification studied at A-Level.

The purpose of this letter is to gauge interest in the trip, so that we can assess the viability of booking this trip. As such, if you are interested in your child attending this trip, please complete the Google Form (link towards the bottom of this letter), by no later than **Thursday 16th June**.

There is space for 50 pupils on this trip and it is open to all current Year 12 pupils (who will be in Year 13 at the time of the trip). The approximate cost of the trip is expected to be £1300 to £1400, based on 50 pupils attending. If the numbers interested are lower, quotes may increase.

A payment scheme will be put into place so that the expense can be spread over the forthcoming months, but the final balance would need to be cleared before September (ie. an immediate deposit of £400, £500 by the end of July, and the c.£500 balance by the end of August). We appreciate that the quick turnaround and heavy payment schedule may be prohibitive for some, but this time period will unfortunately be our only opportunity to run this trip for this year group.

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 sufficient validity 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



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format required for travel. This applies even if no such requirements were in place at the time of booking.

- If the country that we are travelling to, 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 by 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, complete the online 'Expression of Interest' form **by 3pm on Thursday 16th June 2022**. The link to the form is: <https://forms.gle/WDe3BLDeR6n2s6jt9>

If more than 50 pupils express interest in the trip, priority will be given to A-Level geography students, and a random draw will then be used to fill the remaining spaces. 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.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Piggford
Deputy Head of Geography