



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

86c/Dachstein2019/ABO/DSY  
November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **CURRENT YEAR 8 (YEAR 9 2018/19) SKI TRIP: FEBRUARY 2019**

I am planning to take a 9-day ski trip to the resort of Dachstein West, Austria from **Friday 22 February to Saturday 2 March 2019 (February half-term)**.

The Company I use to take care of all travel, accommodation and skiing is *Club Europe Holidays of London* who are specialists in coach travel and have served us well over the last 25 years. As a company, Club Europe meets all the requirements laid down by North Yorkshire Education Authority and is a fully bonded member of ABTA.

Dachstein West is an excellent resort for all grades of skiers with 44 lifts and 123km of marked pistes. It is also linked with Skiverbund which has a total of 142 km of pistes. All standards of skiers are catered for and, while beginners will start on the nursery slopes, everyone will progress to the mountain pistes throughout the week.

I have provisionally booked 46 beds at the Alpen Hotel Dachstein. This is a brand new hotel (opening 2017/18) and offers great value for money. The centre offers comfortable 4/6 bedded rooms all with ensuite showers. It is 5 minutes by coach from the ski lifts and about 350 metres from Gosau village centre.

We will be travelling by executive coach (a journey of approximately 26 hours) and the cost of the tour will be **£1090.00** per child. This cost includes: personalised hoody; return transport from the school; fully comprehensive winter insurance; hire of skis, ski boots and helmet; ski pass; instruction (5 hours of lessons per day for 6 days); evening entertainment and full board accommodation. Your child will also need a certain amount of special ski clothing, but I recommend that growing children take the more practical and cheaper solution of hiring major items such as jacket, salopettes, gloves and goggles. I will cover all of this at a later date.

From the moment the booking is accepted there is only cover for cancellation on medical grounds or in the case of redundancy. Should students withdraw from the trip at any time, you will lose your first two deposits (total £150.00) as a minimum and, as tour operators run a sliding scale, possibly more depending on how close it is to the final deadline. If I fail to fill their place with a reserve, then this may affect the total cost of the trip for everyone else (or force a reduction in ski tuition hours to make up the deficit). ***Therefore you should be aware of the commitment you are making when reserving a place for your son/ daughter.***

### **Paperless Communication**

I wish to make future correspondence via email and do my bit to reduce the planet's carbon footprint and so, if you wish your son/daughter to be considered for the trip, please email me to register your interest at: [alanbolger@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:alanbolger@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Please include the following in your email:

- **Subject: Ski Trip 2019**
- **Your name**
- **Son/daughter's name and tutor group**

If you are unable to send an email, please feel free to write to me at the school address (enclosed).

The deadline for all submissions of interest is **4pm on Friday 1 December**. As there is a limit on places, in the event of the trip being oversubscribed an open ballot will take place on **Tuesday 5 December** at lunchtime to allocate places. From past experience these ski trips are very popular hence the reason for the public draw. If unsuccessful, your son/daughter will be placed on a reserve list which I have always had to access in previous years.

I will then email to let you know if your son/daughter has been successful and you will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£50 by Friday 8 December in order** to secure your child's place on the trip. Payment for this trip should be made online through ParentPay ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)). Please tick the consent box for this trip.

A party size of 46 students (minimum) is required for the tour to be a viable proposition.

Club Europe's payment schedule is as follows:

Type of payment	Amount	Due by date
First deposit	£50	<b>Friday 8 December 2017</b>
Second deposit	£100	<b>Friday 12 January 2018</b>
Halfway Balance	£600	<b>needs to have been paid by Friday 8 June 2018</b>
Final Balance	£1090	<b>to be fully paid by Sunday 25 November 2018</b>

Please feel free to pay in instalments of your choosing via ParentPay throughout the year, as long as you reach the required halfway and final balance amounts.

### **Serious Incident**

National and international security threats in recent months are foremost in our minds as we plan our ongoing programme of trips and visits. Our partnership with parents as we plan and risk assess our visits is important as we all keep in mind our responsibilities within the framework of a trip. I can assure parents that we work very closely with our travel companies and we also take independent travel advice from North Yorkshire County Council who have specialist advice available in relation to trips.

We have a very robust risk assessment process and we review all trips on an ongoing basis. Security advice at the point where we plan a trip may be different by the time the trip is due to leave. Once a booking is made to go on a trip, travel and insurance companies treat cancellations as 'disinclination to travel'. Any withdrawal or cancellation by a parent, guardian or the school may incur financial losses and we cannot guarantee it would be paid for by our insurance provider except in exceptional circumstances.

It is very important that parents satisfy themselves that they are comfortable with the arrangements of a trip before they commit to it. The school works to the latest travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. If a serious incident occurs whilst travelling to the destination, the school reserve the right to cancel the trip or end a visit prematurely. We are always happy to discuss trips and visits in more detail if you need further information before making a commitment to a trip.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact me at school or via email.

Yours faithfully



**Alan Bolger**  
Party Leader