



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

27th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SKI TRIP (EASTER 2023) - Current Year 8 pupils (Year 9 2023)

I am planning to take a 7-day ski trip to the resort of Obertauern, Austria from **Saturday 1st April to Friday 7th April 2023 (Easter break)**.

We will be staying near the charming village of Obertauern which offers great skiing at beginner and intermediate level for school ski trips. Obertauern is a modern resort with the main town sitting at 1740 metres. This makes it snow sure for the main part of the season and gives it an advantage over many of the smaller Austrian resorts. The town itself is a mix of traditional chalet style buildings and modern architecture, meaning the town still has the charm of a traditional Austrian ski resort but with modern luxuries making it a comfortable and exciting stay.

I have provisionally booked 50 beds at the Jugengastehaus Gottschallalm. The comfortable and spacious student rooms are 6 bedded and all have private facilities. The house benefits from having excellent in-house facilities including Wi-Fi, a large games room with table tennis and a TV/Cinema room. [Click here](#) for more details.

Our school is working in partnership with *Club Europe Holidays* who are specialists in school group travel and have served us well over the last 30 years. As a company, Club Europe meets all the requirements laid down by the North Yorkshire Education Authority and is a fully bonded member of ABTA.

We will be flying to Austria with coach connections to and from the airports and the cost of the tour will be approximately **£1,470.00** per pupil. This cost also includes: personalised ski hoody, return transport from the school, fully comprehensive winter sports insurance, COVID protection, hire of skis, ski boots and helmet, ski pass, instruction (5 hours of lessons per day for 6 days), some evening entertainments, and full board accommodation. Your child will also need a certain amount of specialist 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 send further information on this at a later date.

Travel Requirements

Please be mindful, vaccination and or negative PCR confirmation may be a condition of travel. You may be required to personally arrange for a PCR test up to 24 hours before travel. It will be your responsibility to ensure your child has the adequate vaccinations and or negative PCR result available to avoid being excluded if rules should change over the winter. Any associated costs are not included in the trip.

You should also be mindful of EU passport requirements which require at least two empty pages, it should have been issued within the last 10 years and be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date on which you intend to leave. Like all travel insurance, failure to meet the above requirements will not be covered by the insurance. I will keep you updated throughout the time leading up to departure. You are recommended to read through the guidance for travel to Austria for full detail and updates:

[Entry requirements - Austria travel advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/travel-advice)

Insurance Cover

From the moment the booking is accepted there is only insurance cover available for cancellation on medical grounds (including COVID) or in the case of redundancy. We must make you aware that, should you withdraw your child from the trip at any time, you will lose your first deposit (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 the school is unable to fill their place with a reserve, this may affect the total cost of the trip for everyone else attending (or force a reduction in ski tuition hours to make up the deficit). **We ask that you please give consideration to this financial commitment before**

reserving a place for your child. If you are not able to commit now, please delay sending your expression of interest. Please be reassured that we can add your child to the trip (or reserve list if oversubscribed) at a later stage; this is preferable to processing withdrawal requests and losing a deposit.

Paperless Communication

The school prefers to send all correspondence via email (or text) where possible to support reduction of the planet's carbon footprint. If you wish your child to be considered for the trip, please email me to register your interest at:

alanbolger@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk

Please include the following in your email:

- **Subject: Ski Trip 2023**
- **Your name**
- **Your child's name**

The deadline for all expressions of interest is **4pm on Wednesday 1st June**. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed, an open ballot will take place at lunchtime the following week to allocate places. From past experience these ski trips are very popular hence the reason for the public draw. If unsuccessful, your child will be placed on a reserve list, from which we have had pupils routinely attend in previous years.

Following this selection process, I will email to let you know if your child has been successful; and you will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£150.00 by Friday 17th June** in order to secure your child's place on the trip. Payment for this trip should be made online through ParentPay (www.parentpay.com). Please tick the consent box for this trip on the system.

Club Europe's payment schedule is as follows:

Type of payment	Amount	Due by date
First deposit	£150	Friday 17th June 2022
Second deposit	£150	Friday 8th July 2022
Halfway Balance	£750 (in total)	Friday 7th October 2022
Final Balance	£1,470 (in total)	Friday 13th January 2023
Total	£1,470	

It is very important that you are comfortable with the arrangements of a trip before committing. 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 reserves 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. 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.

You will be welcome to pay in instalments of your choosing via ParentPay throughout the year; so long as you have paid the required amount by the due dates specified above.

We are looking forward to commencing our extra-curricular programme again following the pandemic. If you have any questions please get in touch. Have a great half term.

Yours sincerely

Alan Bolger
Visit Leader