



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SKI TRIP FEBRUARY HALF-TERM 2026-Current Year 8 (Year 9 2026)**

I am planning to take a 7-day ski trip to the resort of Flachau, Austria from **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Half-term)**. Flachau is an extensive resort and forms part of the Salzburg Sportwelt and Ski amadé region, which also includes the ski regions of Wagrain and Alpendorf. It caters for all grades of skier and has an excellent ski school for the complete beginner. I have been to Flachau numerous times before, and have been very satisfied with the whole layout of the resort. There are many gentle nursery slopes for beginners and good progression to the more challenging slopes for improving skiers.

I have provisionally booked 50 beds at the Jugengastehaus Hanneshof. The comfortable and spacious student rooms are 6 bedded and all have private bathrooms. The house benefits from having excellent in-house facilities including Wi-Fi, a large games room with table tennis, a TV/Cinema room and an indoor 5-a-side hall.

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, and the cost of the tour will be approximately **£1,934.00** per pupil. This cost also includes: return transport from the school, fully comprehensive winter sports insurance, hire of skis, ski boots and helmet, ski pass, fully qualified instruction in ski-school (5 hours of lessons per day for 5 days), 3 evening entertainments, personalised ski hoody 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 or try to acquire second-hand. I will send further information on this at a later date.

### **Travel Requirements**

Whilst most European countries no longer have COVID-19 travel requirements, any future associated requirements or costs are not included in the trip price. 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/entry-requirements-to-austria)

### **Insurance Cover**

From the moment the booking is accepted there is only insurance cover available for cancellation on medical grounds (with a valid doctors note). We must make you aware that, should you withdraw your child from the trip at any time, you may lose your first two deposits (total £400.00) 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).

## 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 (I will use this for all future communications) to register your interest at: [bolgera@king-james.co.uk](mailto:bolgera@king-james.co.uk)

Please include the following in your email:

- **Subject: Ski Trip 2026**
- **Your full name**
- **Your child's full name**

The deadline for all expressions of interest is **4pm Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed, a public ballot will take place at a designated time to allocate places. From past experience these ski trips are very popular hence the reason for the draw. If unsuccessful, your child will be placed on a reserve list, which I draw places from every year due to students dropping out.

Participation on the trip is conditional on good behaviour and attendance which is determined by the school. Any pupil failing this criteria will be withdrawn from the trip or arrangements made to be returned home. This may lead to additional, full or partial loss of payments (which will be determined by the tour operator withdrawal policy) unless the place is filled by another pupil.

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, first deposit by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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)). Prior to making the initial payment you will be requested to complete the required consent information on Parent Pay.

Club Europe's payment schedule is as follows:

Type of payment	Amount	Date Due
First deposit	£200 (non-refundable)	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Second deposit	£200 (non-refundable)	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Third instalment	£400	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Fourth instalment	£400	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Fifth instalment	£400	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Final Balance	£334	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,934.00</b>	

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; as long as you have paid the required amount by the due dates specified above.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Bolger**

Trip Leader