



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Heanor Gate Ski Tour – Axamer Lizum 2022

I hope that you are all well and that everyone is excited for the forthcoming ski trip to Austria.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mr Ryan is no longer able to attend the ski trip and so I have agreed to assume the strategic leadership for the trip. Given that I introduced the ski trips here at Heanor Gate and have attended them all I can assure you we are in safe hands. I will be supported in terms of operational leadership by Miss Oliver and Mr Chambers, both experienced middle leaders at the academy.

Following some recent questions from individual parents I have tried to give some useful information on specific areas below:

Payments

Thank you for the most recent payment and your attempts to keep up to date with the payment schedule. I appreciate that COVID has brought about changes in people's financial circumstances and where possible we have tried to be as flexible as possible with amending dates within reason. However, our payment schedules are fixed by the travel company and to ensure we do not incur any penalties it is essential that we meet future payments on time. A reminder of the payment schedule is below and if you have any questions around payments please contact Mr Chambers directly: JosephChambers@heanorgatespencer.com

- w/c 3 October 2021 - £185
- w/c 1 November 2021 - £185

UK based ski lessons/sessions

As we have done in previous years we are trying to facilitate some trips to a UK based ski venue, previously we have used Tamworth Snow Dome. In the past students have enjoyed these trips and found that they really accelerated their progress once out on the Austrian slopes.

Due to some logistical issues (high student numbers, a lack of mini buses and reduced mini bus driver capacity) we are currently in negotiations with various providers about how these trips can run. We will be in touch in the coming weeks with more details of these trips.



Travel information and other updates

A number of parents have asked me about testing requirements and whether vaccinated children will be exempt from any restrictions etc.

I have no further information at present around what travel restrictions will look like other than what is available in the public domain. The government gave a travel update last week whereby a revised set of protocols are due to come into place on 4 October. After speaking with the home office today, they can offer us no clarity on how the vaccination of children may or may not impact travel regulations, nor what the testing situation is likely to be by the time we travel.

As we all know well, this guidance is subject to change, and will likely be updated numerous times between now and February. The only advice I can give is that if testing is still required for entry to Austria, or re-entry to the United Kingdom then we will need to adhere to the regulations and the cost of any tests will be the responsibility of the students and their families. The travel company will negotiate to try and secure best value deals for this to reduce cost where possible.

We will be holding a **parents' information evening on Thursday 11 November, 6pm-7pm** in the main school hall. At this event I will hopefully be able to share more details of the itinerary, kit list etc and have some clarity around travel restrictions.

I am in regular dialogue with the travel company and will keep you as updated as possible throughout the coming weeks and months. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the following email address at school where one of us will pick up your query: SkiLeads2022@heanorgatespencer.com I have also reinstated the ski trip twitter account and will ensure regular updates are posted online @HGSASkiTour

We are looking forward to a wonderful trip.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal