

Thursday 7 December 2023

tyn/pmt/initialskiltrapril 2024/25

Dear Parents

Ski trip to Serre Chevalier, France – Friday 27 December 2024 to Saturday 4 January 2025

I am delighted to be organising a Ski trip to Serre Chevalier in the Christmas period December 2024/January 2025 for current Yr. 7 to Yr. 9 students. Mr Paul and I will be accompanying the students along with eleven additional members of staff who will be confirmed at a later date.

I should emphasise at the outset that skiing is an extremely demanding physical activity involving up to 7 hours of work per day. I believe that parents and students should be aware of its demanding nature at an early stage, and it is important that it should not be considered as a holiday.

The trip leaves from St John's on Friday 27 December 2024 and will return to St John's on Saturday 4 January 2025, timing to be confirmed nearer the time. Travel to Serre Chevalier will be by coach. Further details regarding clothing, equipment, food, etc. will be provided closer to the time.

The students will be travelling on their own Passports, and these must be valid for at least six months after the date of return. A valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will also be required. *Information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>*

The cost of the trip will be £1,336.00 and will include the following:

- Return travel by coach from St John's.
- Full board at the resort.
- Hire of skis, boots, ski poles and helmets.
- 12 x 2-hour ski lessons with the French Ski School.
- Comprehensive insurance cover. ***Please note you will be asked to reimburse St John's for any insurance excess paid on your behalf at the time of treatment in resort. Claims for lost/stolen/damaged personal effects will be paid less any relevant excess.***
- Lift pass.
- Snow guarantee insurance.
- No surcharge guarantee insurance (please note that this guarantee covers fuel and currency increases, but neither St John's nor the travel company, Ski Bound Ltd, can guarantee against increases in the cost of the ski course because of French government action).
- Ski breakage/loss insurance.
- Resort representative service
- Gratuities

In order that the trip may take place and to reserve the chosen resort and hotel, it is necessary to ask for a deposit of **£200.00**, this should be paid by end of day on **Friday 12 January 2024** to financially consolidate the booking. If a place is confirmed, further payments will be required, as below.

- Monday 4 March 2024 - £227.20
- Monday 6 May 2024 – 227.20
- Monday 8 July 2024 - £227.20
- Monday 9 September 2024 - £227.20
- Monday 4 November 2024 - £227.20

In case of financial hardship, support is available from the Opportunity Fund and a letter to the Principal will be dealt with confidentially and sympathetically. **Do not wait to hear about funding before sending in permission as places are limited and the trip is very popular, by waiting you may miss out on gaining a place.** An optional additional payment of approximately £80.00 'pocket money' **mostly in Euro's** cash (not included in the trip cost) can be paid nearer the departure date, should you wish to take advantage of the trip's 'bank' facility.

Payment should be made online through ParentPay; you will not need to return the paper permission slip if you pay online. Payment can still be made by cheque with the completed permission slip at the end of this letter returning it via the financial mailbox in the Atrium by the exit to the tennis courts. Please indicate on the envelope the name of the trip and mark it for the attention of Mrs Marshall-Thomas. For security purposes we request that you do not make payments in cash, the Academy cannot be held responsible for the non-receipt of cash payments from students. After the initial deposit you will be able to pay what you like, when you like to meet the payment deadlines. *If you have mislaid your log in details, please contact Mrs S Woodburn on 01672 519567 or by emailing swoodburn@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk*

Payments are non-returnable unless the trip is cancelled by the school. Should the student be withdrawn by parental request unless for a substantiated medical reason, this will be taken as disinclination to travel and therefore parents will be liable for all costs incurred.

We will make every effort to fill places from a reserve list, however costs incurred by the school will have to be covered in full whether the place is filled or not. All such withdrawals should be discussed, in the first instance, with Mrs Pauline Marshall-Thomas via trips@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk or DD 01672 518896.

Selection for the trip will be made according to the following criteria:

- Behaviour and achievement in school with reference to records held.
- Approach to physical activity – liaison with the PE Department.
- Liaison with the Pastoral care team.
- Priority to students who have applied previously but were unsuccessful.
- Priority to students that have not previously been on the trip.

Ski Trip places will not be awarded on a first come first served basis. If after meeting all the above criteria the year groups are still oversubscribed, names will be drawn from a hat. **Late applications received after this date will be added to the reserve list.**

Please be aware that deposit cheques will not be banked until places have been allocated.

The organisation of all trips includes a comprehensive risk assessment. The Principal and Trip Organiser may choose to exclude from the trip any students whose behaviour or schoolwork is not satisfactory. **Any student withdrawn by St John's for these reasons will be at the expense of the parents. It is not possible to guarantee any refund of monies already committed by St John's and indeed expenses not already covered may be claimed from you.**

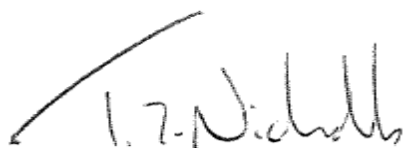
Please be aware that the medical information and contact details for your son/daughter that you have supplied for St John's records are printed and taken on the trip by the trip leader and their deputy, in case an emergency arises. They are also supplied to the member of the Senior Leadership Team that is point of contact for the trip. The printouts are destroyed once the trip is over. By applying for a place on the trip, you are giving your consent for this information to be used for this purpose.

Please be aware that in the case of an insurance claim being necessary, you will be asked to reimburse St John's for any insurance excess paid on your behalf at the time of treatment in resort.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Deposit payment and permission needs to be received by end of day on Friday 12 January 2024 at the latest.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Y Nicholls', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Mr T Y Nicholls
Party Leader
Assistant Vice Principal

Please return slip and payment to the Financial Mailbox in the Atrium by the exit to the tennis courts. These should be in an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs Marshall-Thomas and your child's name, tutor group, trip/event name, trip date and trip organiser must also be detailed on it. Cheques should be made payable to 'St John's Marlborough'.

Ski trip to Serre Chevalier, France – Friday 27 December 2024 to Saturday 4 January 2025
Trip Organiser – Mr Nicholls

Student: Yr. Tutor Group:

1. I give permission for my son/daughter to be included in the above-proposed trip.
2. I enclose payment of £200.00 and confirm that I will make regular payment instalments as suggested.
3. I confirm that the full cost of the trip will be paid on or before the final payment date.
4. I understand that there may be no refund due, should my child be withdrawn from the trip by St John's.
5. I accept that I will be liable for all costs incurred by St John's should I withdraw my child from the trip,

Signed: Date:
(Parent)

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RETURN THE PAPER PERMISSION SLIP IF YOU PAY BY PARENT PAY