



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
 “Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Heanor Gate Science College Ski Tour - Folgarida 2020

Happy New Year to you all and I hope the festive period was kind to you. Now we have returned to school, the countdown to our largest ever ski trip draws closer and excitement levels are rising for all those involved! I am writing to ensure you are all as fully informed as possible regarding the arrangements and to confirm the process for collecting passports and EHIC cards etc.

There have been some amendments to ferry crossings and ferry timetables so our departure and return times are a little different to last year, and different to what was outlined at the parents’ evening. These changes are beyond our control and have been imposed on us by both the tour and travel company. **The travel company has confirmed that we will be leaving school at 9.30am on Saturday 15 February**, following the timings outlined below.

The coaches will be parked in the bays within the main school car park, opposite the main hall. Therefore please may I ask that you park in the far right hand corner of the large car park which is accessed by driving up the main drive. Staff will be on site from 8.00am on the day. **Please arrive no later than 9.00am**. This will provide adequate time to load the coaches and ensure a prompt departure. Please note that the estimated time of arrival back at school will depend on ferry crossings and traffic. Updates will be made via twitter and through communication with the students.

Travel Details

Depart the UK		Arrive back in the UK	
Saturday 15 February 2020	Sunday 16 February 2020	Friday 21 February 2020	Saturday 22 February 2020
9.30am - Depart school by coach for Dover 2.40pm - Arrive Port of Dover 4.40pm - Depart P&O Ferry Dover to Calais 7.10pm - Arrive at Calais	11.30am - Estimated time of arrival at Hotel 11.45am - Check in to Hotel Vecchia America (subject to rooms being ready) 12.30pm - Lunch 1.30pm - Ski fit 3.00pm - Walk around the town 4.00pm - Introduction talks and Vision reps introduction 6.00pm - Dinner in hotel 7.30pm - Evening entertainment 9.30pm - Bed time 10.00pm - Lights out	7.30pm - Breakfast in the hotel and check out 9.00am-11.00am - Morning snow sports lessons Hot lunch on the mountain at Malghet Aut 1.00pm - 3.00pm/3.30pm - Afternoon snow sports lessons From 3.15pm - Return ski equipment From 3.30pm - Showers at Vecchia America 5.00pm - Board coach and depart for Calais	7.50am - Arrive Calais 9.50am - Depart P&O ferry - Calais to Dover 10.20am - Arrive at Dover 4.00pm - Estimated time of arrival at Heanor Gate Science College

*Timings are subject to change and updates will be communicated where required

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Email: mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Student Ski Meeting

There will be a meeting for all students going on the trip on Friday 7 February from 3.10pm-4.00pm approximately in the sixth form common room. This meeting is essential as we will be going over the finalised itinerary, coach allocations, sorting out rooming arrangements and distributing tour hoodies (*Please ensure they arrive at school wearing this on the Saturday*).

Coaches and travel arrangements

Your child will be allocated a coach and must travel on this coach at all times. We will endeavour to try and organise the coaches with friendship groups in mind, but no swapping of places will be permitted for safety and security reasons. I advise that your child brings a pillow and appropriate warm layers as the coach is usually cold at night. They are also permitted to bring any age appropriate DVDs for the on-board TV and are welcome to bring sweets and snacks for the journey. We will be stopping at service stations both in the UK and in Europe, so they may either bring some food to eat or sterling/euros to buy refreshments during the journey. Students must wear their tour hoody when getting off the bus at all times.

Students will need to fund an afternoon/evening meal on the ferry. If you would like to send your child with a small sum of money for the return journey, and would like staff to manage this money until the return journey, please send your child with it in a separate envelope with their name marked clearly on it.

Passports and EHIC cards

As discussed at the parents' information evening, we propose to collect all passports and EHIC cards on Tuesday 4 February 2020. Your child will need to give theirs to Miss Hill or Miss Gurney in room K1 between 8.00am and 8.45am on this day. This will give us plenty of time to photocopy them and sort out any issues prior to departure. All documents will be stored in the school safe until our departure the following week. If you still have not received either your child's passport or EHIC card then please contact us. No student will be allowed to travel without an EHIC card.

Spending Money

As highlighted at the parents' information evening, all food is included in the cost of the trip. There will be a range of evening activities (authentic pizza night, ski race, cinema night and more), which carry a small additional cost each. There is also a snack bar for students to access at the hotel if they want to. Students will be allowed to visit the shops located around the Viale Dolomiti di Brenta area at appropriate times for souvenirs.

Any money brought and managed by students will be their responsibility. However, if you would like any spending money to be looked after by a member of staff then please send your child with the money in an envelope clearly marked with their name on it.

Tour Twitter Account

As discussed we have set up a school twitter account for the ski tour. It is a great way to document the trip and for you to see pictures of students on the slopes. The twitter handle is @HGSCSkiTour and we will use the hashtag #folgarida20

Mobile Phones

Students are welcome to bring items such as mobile phones, but do so at their own risk. Such items are not covered under our travel insurance and students need to ensure that all of their belongings are kept safe. Whilst out on the slopes, students should leave their mobile phones either in the hotel or in their pockets well out of reach. Safety on the slopes is of paramount importance and students cannot afford to be distracted in any way.

Student Behaviour

Expectations of student conduct will be high throughout the length of the trip. As it is peak season for skiing holidays, other patrons will also be on their vacation. Persistent poor behaviour will not be tolerated and consequently, where required, school staff will manage incidents as they would do at school. Previously, due to a 'severe' incident, we had to send a student home at cost to the parent.

Smoking and Alcohol

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited for all students, regardless of age. Students must not attempt to buy prohibited goods whilst on the trip and anyone caught with such items will be sanctioned and risk elements of the trip being heavily restricted.

Emergency Contact

We will provide students with a laminated card to keep on them at all times with information including the hotel address and two staff trip phone numbers to be used for emergencies at any time during the course of the trip.

Staff List 2020

Mr Ryan Trip Leader	Mrs Meakin Deputy Trip Leader	Mr Hughes	Miss Hill	Miss Farmer	Mr Huntington
Mr Jones	Mr Stanley	Miss Davies	Miss Oliver	Miss Kirk	Miss Gurney

Kit List

A proposed kit list is attached to this correspondence.

I hope all of the students are looking forward to the trip and, if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Waterfall on reception who managed the administration for the tour. She will put you in touch with one of us should she receive any query she is unable to answer.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Ryan
Trip Leader

Mrs C Meakin
Deputy Trip Leader