

April 2023

Dear Parent/Carers of Students in Year 8

Advanced Booking To Support Your Saving Towards the Year 10 Ski Trip.

I count myself exceptionally lucky being organiser of Ski Trips at Langtree since 2004, this has allowed me to watch and support hundreds of young people conquer challenges and learn life skills they thought they would never achieve. Langtree is in the unique position of running a Ski Trip solely for one year group, year 10. The group comes home to Langtree closer to each other than ever before, after sharing stories of the trials and tribulations involved in the physically demanding sport of skiing. I personally think there is nothing more exhilarating in life than flying down a steep hill with only a few millimetres of ski between you and the snow, whilst you absorb the stunning and beautiful scenery of European mountain ranges. Sadly due to many factors, this sport comes with a premium price that rises each year. For this reason, The Ski Company and I have decided to try and support parents in the planning of their finances by spreading the payments over approximately 18 months, should your child be offered a place on the trip you will be sent the payment plan details by The Ski Company

Details of The Trip - subject to possible change

The trip is currently intended to take place between 28th December 2024 and 4th January 2025. Travel will be by coach via the Eurotunnel or ferry crossing to Calais and then coach to the ski resort of Gstaad, Switzerland, staying at the Lovell Camp mountain lodge. The cost for this trip is £1390. I do appreciate just how much this is, particularly in the current financial climate, many will struggle as I did a few years ago for my son's first ski trip. My son paid for half of the trip himself, by doing chores like washing our and friends cars and cutting our lawn. All of his Christmas and birthday presents went toward the trip as well. Students that have worked hard for their trip often enjoy the trip more as they really understand the value of what they are lucky enough to take part in.

As many of you will be aware there were significant problems at the ferry ports during the February half term and at Easter this year resulting in some very significant delays for coach groups, some schools experienced delays of over 24 hours. To try and mitigate the delays all the ferry companies have dramatically reduced the number of spaces for coaches for ferries next year. Thus increasing the costs considerably. We would like to be able to take as many students on the ski trip as possible, which is the reason we have changed the trip dates to the week after Christmas.

Langtree has used 'The Ski Company' since the 1990's and has found them perfectly tailored for school trips. This year's trip was again a huge success, not only because of the excellent attitude amongst the participating students, but also because of the facilities and service provided by The Ski Company. Please feel free to visit the companies website where you can learn much more about the company: <https://www.skicompany.net/> During a typical day, students will have two ski school sessions lasting two and a half hours each, with an hour break for lunch. There will be inclusive evening activities organised by the Ski Company and of course full board accommodation.

If you would like your child to be considered for a place on this trip please complete the form via the QR code at the end of this letter. Expressing an interest in this trip for your son or daughter does not at this stage represent a commitment on your part that they will take part in this trip. There are limited places on this trip and should the trip be oversubscribed places will be allocated by a ballot. The deadline for completing this form is 8th May 2023.

Should your child be allocated a place on the trip you will be sent further details of how to pay the deposit and complete "The Ski Company" ski trip application form and the deadline for doing so. The place offered to your child will be offered to another student if the deadline for the deposit payment application is missed.

Skiing in the mountains is considered to be a high risk activity and the safety of all students and staff is paramount to me as the trip leader. Although I wish for all students to experience and gain from such a fantastic experience I will take into consideration pupil behaviour and attitude in the past and from now until the trip date. I therefore reserve the right to remove any student from the trip and will not hesitate to give the then unfilled place to the next person on the reserve list instead.

During the assembly today students heard that this is not just a school trip to spend time with friends, we are all going to ski. Skiing is hard work, mentally and physically demanding. I say this as I do not wish for any parent to waste a significant amount of hard earned money on their child to be sat taking up one of my valuable team in the hotel getting bored for a week, because they have given up. If your son/daughter struggles to be enthusiastic for all PE lessons, then this trip is not for them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me mvitty@langtreeschool.com

I do hope that you and your child will strongly consider this trip as I am so aware of the positives that come from it. All students coming home from it each year repeatedly say it is "the best trip ever!" If you are interested please complete the expression of interest form.

Kind Regards



Mr. M. Vitty
Trip Leader

Expression of Interest Form

