



5 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: 2020 Ski Trip, USA – Jay Peak, Vermont and New York

Following the successful and enjoyable ski trips of previous years, we are now in the process of organising this trip again for the Easter holidays 2020; departing on Thursday 2 April and returning Friday 10 April 2020. The trip is open to all students in current years 8 and 9 regardless of ski experience. There will be six members of staff supervising the trip and a maximum of 48 students.

We will be staying at **Stateside Hotel** within the Jay Peak Resort in Vermont, USA and the trip will also include a one-night stopover in New York City.

This trip will include the following activities:

- 6 nights' full board accommodation at Stateside Hotel, Jay Peak Resort, Vermont
- 5 hours of ski tuition per day for 5 days
- 2 x sessions in Pump House Waterpark
- Visit to Clips and Reels (climbing centre)
- 1-night stopover in New York City (Hotel TBC)
- Visit to Top of the Rock
- Staten Island Ferry tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum visit
- Shopping trip

The cost of the trip is £1655 on a full board basis including flights, transfers, evening activities, accommodation, insurance, ski tuition, equipment hire, lift passes, ski storage and travel hoodies.

Insurance is covered within the cost but we must have all relevant medical details and other relevant information relating to your son or daughter. It may be necessary for pre-existing medical conditions to be made known to our insurers and for parents to pay for any resulting additional premium. The organising tour operator is Ski Bound; for information on the company visit <https://www.skibound.co.uk/>.

All students will require their own passport which needs to be valid for at least six months from the return date of the trip. Students will also need to complete an ESTA application which is valid for two years and currently costs approximately £10. More details about this will follow should your son/daughter be accepted onto the trip.

As with all school trips Health and Safety is of paramount importance. Invariably on ski trips there are injuries but staff will ensure that the required medical attention is given as necessary.

At this time, it is necessary to point out some key expectations:

- Students will be required to stay in small groups at all times (including whilst receiving tuition on the slopes) unless given specific instruction by a member of staff.
- During the trip there will be some limited 'free time', to shop for example. During this time, students may be in groups of between four and eight. They will be given specific instruction on where they are permitted to go, what they may do, and where and when they should return. Staff will be in a prescribed area and will be available if needed.
- Students must remain in the hotel during evening time and lights out will be at 10pm. Ski trips are physically demanding and sleep is a vital ingredient for a successful trip.
- Students will have an identified group leader who will be responsible for passports and money. It is highly recommended that expensive items are not brought.
- There is to be no smoking or drinking alcohol.

This is clearly a very exciting opportunity for your son/daughter to visit America as well as learn how to ski or improve their skiing ability. If you would like your son/daughter to take part in this trip, please return the attached consent form together with a deposit cheque made payable to St Martin's School for £255, by Monday 18 March.

There will be a maximum of 48 places available on this trip and should demand exceed this, there will be a random draw held, at lunchtime on Tuesday 19 March 2019, to determine who will go. Unsuccessful students will be placed on a reserve list. Letters will then be sent out to inform you of the outcome for your son or daughter. The deposit is non-refundable if your son/daughter is allocated a place; deposits will be returned if your son/daughter is placed on the reserve list. It has to be made clear at this stage that if the minimum numbers are not met then it may not be possible for the trip to run.

We shall release a payment schedule at a later date, with staged payments up until Monday 2 December. All instalments are non-refundable unless the place is sold to another student.

Successful students will be invited to an information evening to go through further details. If you have any questions beforehand, please contact me at school on the number above.

Yours sincerely

Miss Charley Barrell
Trip Organiser