



2 October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: 2019 Iceland Geography Trip

I am excited to announce that this year the Geography Department will be running a trip to Iceland at the beginning of the Easter Holidays 2019. The trip is open to all A Level and Year 10 GCSE Geography students. The trip will leave on Friday 5 April 2019 and return on Monday 8 April, there will be three members of staff supervising 30 Geography students.

We will be staying at the Arctic Comfort Hotel in Reykjavik. From there we will be following an itinerary which includes trips to Iceland's famous Golden Circle, the South Shore and Secret Lagoon. Throughout the whole itinerary we will be supported by a specialist Field Studies Guide who will be extending your child's plate tectonic learning in the field. This is a once in a lifetime learning opportunity not to be missed. The cost of this trip is £897, which includes accommodation, all meals, flights, transfers, insurance and activities.

Insurance will be covered within the cost, but we must have all relevant medical details or 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 NST. For information on the tour company please visit <https://www.nstgroup.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.

As with all school trips, Health and Safety is of paramount importance. Whilst accidents are unlikely on this trip, if necessary, staff will ensure that the required medical attention will be given. At this time, it is also necessary to point out some key expectations;

- Students will be required to stay in small groups at all times unless given specific instruction by a member of staff.
- During the trip there is some limited 'free time' to shop for example. During this time, students may be in groups of between three and six. 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 in the evening and lights out will be at 10pm. Geography trips are physically demanding and sleep is a vital ingredient for it to be a success.
- Students will have an identified group leader who will be responsible for passports and money during the trip. It is highly recommended that expensive items are not brought along.
- Strictly no smoking or drinking alcohol on this trip.

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in this trip, please return the attached consent form together with a non-refundable deposit cheque of £250 by Friday 12 October 2018. Further payment should then be made via Parent Pay in accordance with the payment schedule shown below. In the event the trip is oversubscribed a random draw will take place at lunchtime on Tuesday 16 October 2018, although it is important to note that A Level students will have priority. A reserve list will also be created by random draw if places are oversubscribed. Deposits will be returned if your son or daughter is not selected. Letters will be sent to inform you whether your son daughter is successful in gaining a place on the trip.

12 October £250 cheque with consent form	7 December £250 via parent pay
16 November £250 via parent pay	11 January £147 via parent pay

These instalments are also non-refundable unless the place is sold to another student.

If you have any questions, please contact me at school on the number above or via abaker@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Miss A Baker
Head of Geography - Trip Leader