

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to announce that we are looking into booking a 2023 Easter Holiday Ski Trip to Northern Italy for pupils that are currently in Year 8 and Year 9 (and will be in Year 9 and 10 when the ski trip takes place). We have had to put residential trips on hold in the last couple of years but are keen to get a programme up and running. I envisage offering a ski trip on a bi annual basis for pupils in Year 9 and 10. Having done some research into what different companies can offer it is clear that prices have increased significantly. Therefore, before I take any further steps with regard to securing a booking I need to find out if we are likely to have a viable group of pupils committed to trip and in a position to meet the cost of such a trip.

Why Go Skiing?

This is a fantastic opportunity for complete beginners or intermediate skiers to enjoy skiing in breath-taking mountain scenery whilst also benefitting from the cultural experience that a foreign country offers. Travelling and staying away from home will also help pupils become more independent, develop more confidence and make new friends. Many students who go on school ski trips pick up a new skill (and passion) that stays with them for life – it certainly has for me!

How much does it cost?

The cost per person will be no more than £900 which can be paid in instalments prior to the trip. The cost includes:

- Return travel by coach.
- 6 days skiing with 5 hours of tuition per day with qualified instructors.
- Lift pass.
- Ski, boot and helmet hire.
- Full board accommodation with free WiFi
- Ski trip hoodie
- Winter sports insurance
- Some evening entertainment

Meals en-route and pocket money (no more than £10 per day recommended) are not included. This is clearly an expensive trip but I do believe it offers excellent value for money when compared with other offers. We would ask for payment over a series of instalments giving families a year to pay the full cost and any withdrawal from the trip would result in loss of payments unless covered by insurance.

Bursaries

There will be up to 6 bursaries available for pupils that are eligible for Free School Meals. These bursaries will be awarded to pupils that can demonstrate an exemplary behaviour and attendance record at SMA. Bursaries will cover half the cost of the trip (up to £450).

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What do I need to do next?

If you are interested in your child participating in this trip you would need to complete an on-line expression of interest <https://forms.gle/MzNqAfmesBqVuR5t5> by Thursday 6th January 2022. Please note that by completing this form you are not committing to your child attending this trip and St Matthew Academy are not guaranteeing that either the trip will go ahead or that your child will be able to go.

Please note: The first deposit of £100.00 will be required no later than Monday 24 January 2022.

What will I do next?

We will analyse the responses received and assess the viability of a trip being able to go ahead at a cost of no more than £900. If we can fill 40 places, then there is a very good chance that we can run the trip.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher