

May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Y11 TRIP TO ICELAND (current Year 9 students) : SEPTEMBER 2018

When: Thu 27th September – Sun 30th September 2018; 4 days (3 nights)

Cost of trip: £790

Number of available places: maximum of 50

What is included: Accommodation with full board, return flights from the UK to Iceland, airport transfers by coach, professional guide services, 2 full day excursions to 'Golden Circle' and 'South Shore Adventures', entrance into Blue Lagoon, Hellisheioi geothermal power station, Eyjafjallajokull Volcanic Eruption Visitor Centre, travel and medical insurance including I.P.T & resources, maps and educational materials.

As your child approaches the start of KS4 at Brockington, we are delighted to be able to offer pupils the opportunity to visit Iceland after very successful previous visits in September 2016 and 2017.

We acknowledge this is an expensive trip and the price has unfortunately increased due to the fall in the value of the pound in recent months. However, as the trip was so successful last time we are prepared to run it again if there is sufficient interest. At this stage, we merely need to ensure there are enough pupils who would like to take part in this international visit to make it viable. Should the trip be over-subscribed, then the procedures laid out in the Educational Visits Policy on the school website will be implemented.

The trip will facilitate wonderful background knowledge for anyone who has chosen Geography as a GCSE option, although pupils who have not chosen this option, may also choose to apply for a place on this trip. This trip is a combined Geography/Science educational experience made available by both departments. There is a packed itinerary and an opportunity to visit one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Please take the time to read the information below and if your child is interested in participating in this trip, we would ask that you indicate your interest by returning the **reply slip to school by 22 May 2017**.

We would very much like this visit to take place. However, the visit is an "optional extra" under the 1996 Education Act and the school is allowed to make a charge in full. We must make it very clear that no funds whatsoever exist for this activity. However, parents of children who are in receipt of free school meals are entitled to 'Opportunity Funding' to cover (or partially cover) the cost of the trip. Please contact the school office for an application form, which should be completed and submitted before the deadline stated below.

If your son / daughter is successful at gaining a place on the trip (you will be notified by a letter by Thursday 25th May), with the initial non-refundable deposit of £100.00 needing to be paid by Thursday 2nd June 2017, please. There is no need to pay anything at this stage, however.

Itinerary of the trip

DAY 1: UK to Iceland

We will be met by our driver in the arrival hall at **Keflavik Airport**, who will take us to our private coach. The route leads from Keflavik airport to **Gunnhver Hot Springs** - the hot springs will provide a good introduction to Iceland's wonders. We will stop at the **Blue Lagoon** en route to the hotel. This stunning lagoon is pleasantly warm (38°C) and sits in the middle of a black lava field. The high natural levels of silica and minerals give the Lagoon its rich blue colour. The water originates 2,000 metres below the surface, where freshwater and seawater combine at extreme temperatures. It is then harnessed via drilling holes at a nearby geothermal power plant. We will stop for a swim here before going to the hotel.

Tour of Reykjavik in the afternoon.

DAY 2: The Golden Circle Day

We will leave the hotel early for a morning drive to **Hellisheioi geothermal power station** for an introduction on how Iceland utilizes its geothermal energy. The power station is the largest in the world and we will take a tour and visit the energy exhibition with its multimedia displays.

During the rest of the day we will visit some of Iceland's most stunning sights. From the famous '**Strokkur**' **Geysir** which shoots a column of water up to 30 metres into the air every 4-8 minutes to the magnificent **Gullfoss** (Golden Falls) waterfall, created where the river Hvítá tumbles and plunges into a crevice some 32 metres deep. This full day also includes the historical and geological wonder that is **Þingvellir National Park** where we can make a unique walk between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates which are pulling apart at a rate of a few centimetres per year.

On the way back to the hotel we will stop at the idyllic **Friðheimar** greenhouse cultivation centre, where students will learn about the magic behind growing delicious, pesticide-free vegetables which are cultivated all year round using the latest technology, in an environmentally-friendly way. Finally we complete this packed day with a quick stop at the impressive **Kerid** volcanic crater believed to be a cone volcano which erupted and emptied its magma reserve.

DAY 3: South Shore Adventure Day

After another early start, we will drive from Reykjavik over the mountain pass Hellisheiði to the south of the island to the majestic mountains towering over the coast. We will have the opportunity to see **Hekla**, the country's most active volcano and the towering, ice capped strato volcano **Eyjafjallajökull** as well as an opportunity to stop at the spectacular waterfalls **Seljalandsfoss** (which is unique in that you can walk behind it and through to the other side; if it's not icy). You'll also stop and compare this waterfall with the dramatic and much-photographed **Skógafoss** waterfall, with its 60 metre drop.

We will see the stunning **Mýrdalsjökull glacier**, and approach its glacial snout **Solheimajokul**, providing an excellent group opportunity to discuss the processes ongoing here and hopefully undertake an ice walk.

We will also go past **Dyrhólaey**, a magnificent rocky headland with sheer cliffs, with a huge wave cut gap in its ocean facing tip to the beautiful sited village of **Vík**, where we will stop for lunch. After the break we'll head for the sea shore before we turn back to Reykjavik. The sea shore is flanked by steep bird cliffs rising above the black, wave pounded sands. Students will pay a visit to **Reynisfjara**, a black volcanic beach with its dramatic Basalt columns rising up from the shore. There is a great view of the stunning **Reynisdrangar** rock formations rising up from the sea just off shore -- 66 metres above sea level at their highest. We will also visit Eyjafjallajökull Volcanic Eruption Visitor Centre.

We might even be lucky to see the Northern Lights! (September – March)

The Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis are a spectacular natural phenomenon, often seen dancing around in fantastic colours across the Icelandic sky. The lights are caused by the interaction of particles from the sun with the upper atmosphere near the North Pole creating this wonderful light effect.

DAY 4: Iceland to UK

Our private bus will pick us up approximately 2½ hours before flight departure and take us to Keflavik International Airport. Arrival back to the UK will be early afternoon on Sunday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs I Clark
Humanities Faculty

To Mrs I Clark via Main Office by Monday 22 May 2017

Y11 Trip to Iceland September 2018

I would like my son/daughter _____ of form _____ to take part in the above visit.

I confirm I will pay the balance in full via ParentPay by the due date.	
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Or

I confirm I have submitted an 'Opportunity Funding' application form.	
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Signed: _____

Date: _____

(By the adult with legal responsibility for the young person)

