



June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Trip to Iceland, September 2019

We are delighted to offer 50 Year 11 pupils the opportunity to take part in a four-day residential trip to Iceland in September 2019. The proposed dates of the visit are Thursday 26 September 2019 to Sunday 29 September 2019 (to be confirmed).

The trip costs £900 and includes:

- return flights from the UK to Iceland and airport transfers by coach
- accommodation with full board
- professional guide services for days 2 and 3 (Golden Circle and South Shore Tours)
- entrance into Blue Lagoon, Hellisheioi Geothermal Power Station and Eyjafjallajokull Volcanic Eruption Visitor Centre
- travel and medical insurance (including I.P.T)
- resources, maps and educational materials

The trip will provide wonderful background knowledge for pupils studying geography as a GCSE option, although pupils who have not chosen this option, may also choose to apply for a place on this trip. There is a packed itinerary (see page 2) and the trip provides an opportunity to visit one of the most dynamic regions in the world.

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. Parents/carers of children in receipt of free school meals are entitled to 'Opportunity Funding' to cover the cost of the trip and should tick the relevant box on the reply slip below.

If your child would like to participate in this trip, we would ask that you indicate your interest by returning the reply slip to school **by Monday 2 July 2018**. There is no need to pay a deposit at this initial stage. If your son/daughter gains a place on the trip, a letter confirming their place will be sent home by 9 July 2018 and an initial, non-refundable deposit of £100 will need to be paid via ParentPay by 31 August 2018.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Scoggins and Mr Conway
Science Department

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To: Mrs T Scoggins/Mr Conway via Main Office by Monday 2 July 2018

Y11 Trip to Iceland September 2019

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

Or

I am entitled to and would like to apply for Opportunity Funding for my child

Signed: _____
(By the adult with legal responsibility for the young person)

Date: _____



ICELAND TRIP ITINERARY – SEPTEMBER 2019

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 Keflavík 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 in the morning to 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 **Pingvellir 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). We will 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 **Solheimajökul**, 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 seashore before we turn back to Reykjavík. The seashore 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**.

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 in early afternoon on Sunday.