

March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Ski Trip to Vallnord, Andorra
Saturday 30th March – Saturday 6th April 2024**

Arrangements for our 2024 ski trip are now confirmed. We will depart on Saturday 30th March and return on Saturday 6th April. After the success of previous year's trips we will again be travelling with Interski. For 2024 we are once again visiting the mountain ranges of The Pyrenees, in the country Andorra.

Students will receive five hours of tuition per day, with a supervised lunch hour. Instruction will be provided by Interski's own BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) qualified instructors.

We recognise that skiing and snowboarding is an expensive pastime, and sadly costs have risen significantly over the past 18 months. To minimise cost increases as much as we can, the 2024 trip will be 5 days' skiing. Although the cost may seem high, anyone who has been on a ski holiday will know that the price represents great value.

The cost of the 2024 holiday is **£1265** to ski, **£1300** if you wish to snowboard, and includes:

- travel to and from the resort on a luxury coach, including breakfast in both directions
- an extensive 5 day lift pass that covers the full Vallnord resort
- five nights' accommodation at Hotel Patagonia, only a short walk from the ski lift system
- full board accommodation (half board in the hotel / (hot) lunch voucher on the mountain)
- five hours of instruction per day with plus a supervised lunch hour.
- an exciting après ski programme.
- a fully comprehensive winter sports insurance package.
- a full week's ski equipment hire (Includes skis or snowboard, ski poles and boots).

(Please note - Not included is the hire or purchase of any ski clothing or helmet hire)

The trip is open to all current Year 7-12 students who will still be at the school in April 2024. All who wish to come on the trip should pay a **deposit of £100 (for skiers) or £135 (for snowboarders)**. Please could all deposits be paid by 12 noon on **Friday 12th May 2023**. Please note that if the trip is over-subscribed names will be drawn from a hat. **Please pay your deposit via your Parentmail account (Ski Trip 2024 deposit will be found in the Shop in the Payments tab). This deposit is non-refundable if your child secures a place on the trip.** If the trip is over-subscribed, unsuccessful applicants will have the choice of remaining on a waiting list or having their deposit refunded. (All deposits for anyone who does not secure a place on the trip will ultimately be refunded).

Should a student wish to withdraw from the trip after having secured a place, a refund of the deposit (subject to an admin fee) may only be available in the event of a replacement being found. Current Year 11

students who plan to stay at FPSS for 6th Form will not be required to pay any further instalments (beyond the deposit) until their place in Year 12 is confirmed.

You will be contacted in June, confirming whether or not your child has a place on the trip, and when the remaining payment instalments will be due. Final payment will be due in **December 2024**.

Please note that, due to decreasing uptake, Interski has warned us that snowboarding groups may not run – with students being asked to switch to skiing. This is not specific to Furze Platt – Interski has always merged snowboard groups with other schools in the resort wherever possible. There are, simply, increasingly few opting to snowboard across all school groups. As an example, Furze Platt had 11 snowboarders (in comparison to 50 skiers) signed up for our 2023 trip.

Your child must have their own passport. Under current rules, any non-EU citizens must have at least 3 months to run from the date of our expected return (expiry date of at least 7.7.24), while EU citizens merely need to be valid until the date of return (6.4.24). If your child requires a new passport, please allow plenty of time for their application to be processed and notify us well in advance of our date of departure. Please be aware that no refunds can be made if your child is unable to travel due to an irregularity with their passport. If your child holds a non-EU passport they may also require a visa: the website www.ukpa.gov.uk is a useful source of information. Your son/daughter will also require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This can be obtained by calling 0300 330 1350 or via the website <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>.

Please Note - The school reserves the right to remove a pupil from the trip at ANY point for unacceptable behaviour up to the trip departing. In this case it may not be possible to refund all of the money that has been paid.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Jones (2024 Ski Trip Co-Ordinator)

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