



Lode Heath School

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ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER:
MS L SUDDON

5 October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

ICELAND TOUR – October half term 2019 (exact dates TBC)

The Lode Heath Geography Department is delighted to be able to offer a 5 day residential visit to **ICELAND** over the half term holiday in **October 2019**.

There will be 49 places available for the Iceland tour. The tour is being offered to all Year 8 and 9 pupils, and Year 10 pupils studying Geography at GCSE level. The cost of this tour is £1,072. This is based upon current flight price estimates and could change either way by up to 10%, as flights for the depart date have not yet been released.

This price will include airfares/coach, hotel accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals, and entrance fees to selected places of interest. It will also include a personalised hoody/fleece for pupils to wear in the airport and between sites. We are aware that this amount of money would need to be paid in instalments, so we would initially require a deposit of **£100** to secure a place on the Iceland tour. Our intention is to give parents approximately 9 months to pay for this to ensure it is a viable option for all students.

Pupils will be in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 when the trip runs.

The Geography Department has an excellent record for running trips both in the UK and abroad. We have recently taken pupils on residential tours of the Jurassic Coast, London, Iceland, Italy and the USA, and all visits have been incredibly successful. All trips are staffed by members of the Geography Department, who give up their valuable time, often during holidays and weekends in order to ensure that pupils get the most out of the experiences that we offer. This trip to Iceland is a massive undertaking which will require staff to be 'on call' twenty four hours a day for the duration of the trip.

The trip itinerary would include something similar to the following; however, this is based upon a recommendation from our Tour Company, previous experience of the highlights of the Iceland tour we ran in 2015, and is subject to change:

- *Golden Circle Guided Tour:*
- *Hellisheidi Geothermal Power station*
- *Thingvellir National Park*
- *Gulfoss Waterfall*
- *Strokkur Geyser*
- *Night Swimming at a local pool*
- *Swimming at the Blue Lagoon Geothermal Pool*
- *Eyjafjallajökull Volcano*
- *Skogafoss or Seljalandsfoss waterfall*
- *Black sand caves and beaches*
- *Grinadavik town*
- *Bridge between the continents*

ParentPay will be open to eligible students (Year 8, 9 and Year 10 GCSE Geography) on Wednesday 10 October at 10.00am. ParentPay fills places on a first come, first served basis.

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I appreciate that this is not ideal for everyone, but we have decided that this is the fairest way for pupils to have a chance of getting a place on the trip. It also allows staff at school to monitor how many payments have been made, and will allow us to close the trip once 49 places have been filled. Once 49 places have been filled, the option to pay on ParentPay will disappear. ParentPay will re-open later in the month for further payments for pupils who gain a place on the trip.

Our Geography tours are incredibly popular, often selling out within minutes and we anticipate that this tour will be as popular as the last.

Lode Heath School reserves the right to remove pupils from the trip if they fail to fulfil the requirements outlined in our school behaviour policy. Removal from the trip could result in loss of any monies paid. Pupils must have good or excellent attitude to learning and behaviour for learning score consistently in all subjects, and remain in a positive credit/debit balance from now up until the trip.

If your child does not get a place on the trip we will operate a reserve list in case anyone drops out. Please email Mr Hatton on jhatton@lodeheath.org.uk or Mr Turley on dturley@lodeheath.org.uk using the subject title "**reserve list**".

Unfortunately as this tour is not integral to the Geography curriculum, there will be no availability for funding from Pupil Premium.

Payment 1 - £100 Deposit – Due by Friday 12 October 2018

Remaining balance approx. **£972** (subject to change)

Payment 2 - £72 on or before Friday 30 November 2018

Payment 3 - £200 on or before Friday 1 February 2019

Payment 4 - £200 on or before Friday 1 March 2019

Payment 5 - £100 on or before Friday 29 March 2019

Payment 6 - £100 on or before Friday 3 May 2019

Payment 7 - £100 on or before Friday 31 May 2019

Payment 8 - £100 on or before Friday 28 June 2019

Payment 9 - £100 on or before Friday 12 July 2019

The remaining balance must be paid at least 12 weeks prior to departure. Payment should be made via ParentPay the online e-payment system. This will enable you to see a reducing balance as and when you make payments. Alternatively, you can pay at any PayPoint facility, but will need to request a barcoded letter from the Finance Office. If you require any assistance with using ParentPay or need to be reminded of your login details please call the school.

If you wish to pay in full or make higher payments in one go please do so. However, the minimum payments must be made by the deadline dates or your child's place on this trip may be put at risk. We would be grateful of prompt payments to allow us to meet our commitments to the travel company.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. The email address for any queries regarding the Iceland visit should be forwarded to me at jhatton@lodeheath.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Hatton
Geography Department

