

30th November 2018



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Dear Parents/Guardians

Current Year 12 - USA Ski Trip 2020 (when in Year 13)
Killington, Vermont & New York City: Friday 3rd April – Sunday 12th April 2020

We are delighted to be able to offer an incredible ski trip to Killington, Vermont, USA, departing on Friday 3rd April 2020 and returning on Sunday 12th April 2020. The party will travel by executive coach and air with 'Select Travel', a highly reputable company covered by ABTA and ATOL.

Killington offers schools the longest snow season in the east and has fantastic snow making facilities covering 600 acres making it a great choice. The resort covers six mountains and 3,000 feet of vertical drop offering 73 miles of varied ski terrain over 155 trails. With roughly a third of trails suitable for each level of ability, this resort is perfect for groups with a range of skiers. The magic carpets of the beginner ski areas are reassuring for first time skiers, but later in the week they can progress to the amazing Juggernaut trail, the longest in the east at a little over six miles. <http://www.killington.com/site/index.html>

I will be leading the trip with the assistance of 3 Arden school staff. Between us we have many years of experience in supervising students in a skiing environment. We may offer students the opportunity to take ski lessons at Ackers prior to the visit (this will be confirmed dependent on number of non/inexperienced skiers). The trip offers students an excellent learning environment, which will provide students with the opportunity to develop skiing skills and a greater awareness of the mountains. Furthermore they will learn to work as a team, skiing with discipline, in groups of approximately 10, with instructors and staff. Those students studying A Level PE will have the opportunity to be assessed in this activity. Unfortunately snowboarding will not be an option for this ski trip.

This trip becomes more than just a ski trip with the group taking in a fantastic two night stop-over in New York City on the return home. A chance to spend time in NYC seeing some of the most iconic sights in the entire world will really make this trip, a trip of a lifetime. Accommodated in Manhattan, the group will have the opportunity to take in the sights and sounds of this amazing city – for example the Empire State Building, Times Square, Central Park, Rockefeller Centre, 9-11 Memorial and Fifth Avenue in what will be an action packed couple of days to round off the trip.

The total cost of the visit will be approx. £1684 - £1795, this will be confirmed when we know the number of attendees (the minimum number is 32 students and the maximum is 48 students), and when the excursions have been finalised. The cost includes:



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1. Five days skiing
2. Return travel by executive coach & air travel to/from a London airport
3. All road tolls and taxes
4. 6 nights half board accommodation in resort (breakfast and evening meal included)
5. Five days ski, boots, helmet and pole hire
6. 5 day ski-pass
7. 5 hours ski instruction per day
8. Services of a Select Travel Representative – 24 hours in resort
9. Programme of evening entertainments in the ski resort (e.g. bowling)
10. 2 nights bed & breakfast accommodation in Manhattan
11. 2 evening meals in New York, e.g. Hard Rock Café or similar
12. Outlet shopping en-route from resort to New York
13. Admission to arranged sights in New York – *to be confirmed
14. Insurance – including insufficient snow cover

**Our budget allows for all of these activities to be paid for in the total cost, however fluctuation in the price of the dollar may affect this, resulting in a minimal additional payment being required or additional funds being given back to students.*

The cost does not include:

1. Drinks with meals (except breakfast)
2. Lunch every day – in resort and in New York (approx. \$15-\$20 for lunch on the mountain)
3. Meals en-route (meals are provided on board the flights)
4. Pocket money
5. Hire or purchase of ski wear
6. ESTA Visa (if student does not already have one) – \$14 and visa required for entry into USA

There are 48 places maximum available for students. **Places will NOT be allocated on this trip on a first come first served basis;** please follow the instructions below:

1. Students should bring the attached completed 'Expression of Interest' and 'Student Code of Conduct' forms to *Mr Pillinger, in the Sixth Form Office on Friday 7th December 2018 between 10:05-10:25am ONLY.* Students must not give their consent form to any other member of staff as it is vital that he collects them in.
2. A non-refundable **holding deposit of £30.00** should be paid, via ParentPay, by 3:30pm on Tuesday 11th December 2018.
3. Students who have a confirmed place on the ski trip, must make a **second non-refundable deposit payment of £300.00** by Friday 1st February 2019 to secure their place.

The remaining cost will be collected in instalments (to be confirmed):

- Third Payment: £645.00 - Friday 13th September 2019
- Final Payment: £645.00 - Friday 13th December 2019 (will be adjusted based on final cost)



In the event of oversubscription (i.e. more than 48 students), names of students will then be placed in to a draw to determine attendees on the trip; successful students will be informed on Monday 10th December (by 3.30pm and outside Sixth Form Office). Those not drawn to go will have their holding deposit of £30.00 refunded and placed on a waiting list in the order as drawn.

After the second deposit if you prefer to pay by monthly instalments, please contact Mrs McCrone in the School Office who will help you in this matter.

Please be aware that the first holding deposit and second deposit are non-refundable and that the travel company imposes charges for cancellations (unless a replacement is arranged – this means you may be liable for any unpaid costs). However, cancellation charges can be reclaimed (less policy excess) if withdrawal is for an insurable reason.

In the event of us not having at least 32 students for the ski trip, we reserve the right to cancel and refund holding deposits paid.

Please read the following important information regarding price increases:

Changes in transportation costs, including the cost of fuel, duties, taxes or fees chargeable for services such as landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports and exchange rates mean that the price of your travel arrangements may change after you have booked. However there will be no change within 30 days of your departure. We will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. You will be charged for the amount over and above that, plus an administration charge of £1 per person together with an amount to cover agents' commission. If this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 10% of the price of your travel arrangements, you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid, except for any amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel you must do so within 14 days from the date on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, by more than 2% of your holiday cost, then any refund due will be paid to you. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

Please note; if for any reason your son/daughter does not return to Arden in September 2019, unfortunately the first two deposits of £330 will not be refundable. We will endeavour to find a replacement and only if successful will we be able to refund deposits.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Pillinger
Ski Party Leader/Head of Year 12



USA SKI TRIP 2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I give consent for my son/daughter*

STUDENT NAME _____ of FORM _____

To take part in the ski trip to Killington, Vermont, USA, departing on Friday 3rd April 2020 and returning on Sunday 12th April 2020.

I fully understand:

1. The conditions outlined in the letter dated 30th November 2018
2. That a reservation will be made for my child (subject to confirmation by Mr Pillinger) with Select Travel, a member of ATOL, and I agree to be bound by their travel conditions.
3. That the charges for this trip are levied by Select Travel to whom all monies collected by the school on its behalf will be forwarded.
4. That the first holding deposit and second deposit payments are non-refundable unless a replacement can be found to take up the place booked and that cancellation charges apply as outlined in the letter
5. In the event that the student does not return to Arden in September 2019, for any reason, that the first and second deposits remains non-refundable
6. That skiing is a physically demanding activity and that my child has no medical conditions, bad knees etc which would affect his or her ability to fully participate.
7. I accept that my child may be withdrawn from the visit if his/her behaviour in school prior to the visit is unacceptable. This particularly applies to behaviour that leads to concerns about trust and the safety of others. (See student code of conduct).
8. I will pay the holding deposit of £30.00 by 3:30pm on Tuesday 11th December 2018 and a second deposit of £300.00 via ParentPay by 1st February 2019 if my child's place is confirmed on the trip

Signed _____ Date _____
(Relationship: Parent/Guardian*)

*Delete as appropriate



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT - USA SKI TRIP 2020

In order for the trip to proceed all students must agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and give due regard to:

- The health and safety of all party members;
- The achievement of the declared aims and objectives of the visit;
- The upholding of the School's good name.

The student shall:

1. Abide by any reasonable instruction given by a teacher, instructor or other supervisor associated with the trip.
2. Follow all safety guidance issued.
3. Not purchase or consume any alcohol.
4. Not purchase, smoke or use any tobacco, or other narcotic substance.
5. Not purchase or attempt to travel with any knife or weapon other than specialist items associated with the legitimate activities of the group.*

** Such items to be declared in advance of departure, or return, and presented to the Trip Leader.*

6. Be punctual to all meetings and rendezvous.
7. Never leave the accommodation without prior agreement with an adult member of the school party.
8. Always remain in a group of students, minimum size to be determined by the Team Leader.
9. Not take part in any activity that could be deemed dangerous, including swimming, without the permission of a teacher.
10. Be considerate to all other party members, members of the public and management, avoiding noisy or otherwise boisterous behaviour.
11. Participate fully in all activities and sessions during the visit.
12. Immediately report any illness or injury to a member of staff.
13. Immediately report any concerns regarding health and safety to a member of staff.
14. Immediately report sightings of any suspicious persons to a member of staff.
15. Abide by any laws of countries visited during the trip.

I understand that my behaviour may be reported to my parent(s) and that, in a serious case, my parent(s) may be requested to make arrangements for my early return home.

SIGNED (STUDENT) PRINT NAME

SIGNED..... (PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Date

