



20th February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Ski Holiday – Italy 2017
Travel itinerary and contact numbers

The enclosed information should cover all the key points that you need to know about the organisation and running of the College's ski trip to Santa Caterina this Easter. If you have any queries or feel that there are any areas of concern, please free to contact me during College hours.

Departure arrangements

Please assemble in the College bus park at 9.30am on Saturday 1st April, to allow time for the coach to load and depart by 10.00am. Please confine your son/daughter to **one** average size, **easily carried and stowed holdall**, and one item of hand luggage, which will fit into the overhead storage lockers. **Please remember that passports must be available for inspection and must not be left in the main hold luggage, as we will not have access to this until we arrive in the resort.**

ITINERARY

Outward journey

Remember to take travel sickness pills and bring a leak proof bag if illness is a possible problem. Your son/daughter would be advised to sit as near to the front as possible, as seeing the horizon whilst travelling can help to alleviate travel sickness. If you are likely to suffer from seasickness, bring your tablets with you, and you will be advised when to take them in preparation for the crossing.

This year we will be travelling with **Bridgwater Tours Ltd. Tel: 01278 2388040**. During the journey, we will be watching a number of DVD films. If students have any suitable viewing they might wish to bring, please see Mr Richardson. This year we will be travelling up to Dover to catch the 19:15 **P&O** ferry to Calais. We will then drive down overnight through France, crossing into Italy during Sunday morning. We should arrive in Santa Caterina by early afternoon on Sunday 2nd April.

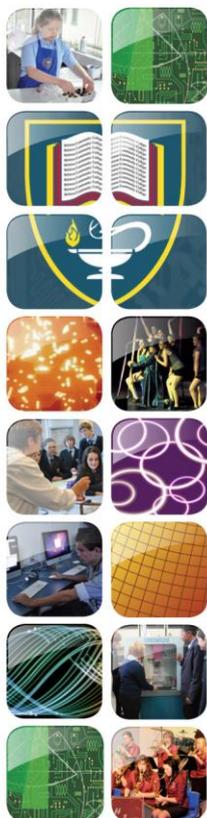
Although we shall be stopping at regular intervals on the journey, it would be advisable to bring plenty of packed food and drink. We will be stopping at motorway services for breakfast and lunch on the Sunday morning, for which Euros will be required. Our first meal at the resort will be the evening meal on the Sunday. We should be stopping in the London area to pick up the drivers for the journey down across Europe, and this would be a suitable time to purchase an evening meal.

After we finish skiing on the afternoon of Friday 7th April, students will have time to shower, change and complete packing their bags, ready for the return journey. There will be a final meal in the hotel before departure. Students will need to budget for food on the return journey, which could require Euros as well as Sterling, with the ferry crossing being a good opportunity to purchase breakfast. There will be service stops on the journey down from Dover, with the last probably being at Exeter services, from which you will get an accurate guide as to the return time.



Head of College: Mr W Jenkins
Executive Headteacher: Mrs D Bryant
Tel: 01326 572685
Fax: 01326 572183
Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall. TR13 8NR
Email: enquiries@helston.cornwall.sch.uk
www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk

/Cont....



Travel guidelines

1) On the coach

- a) Select your seats and stick to them. Seat belts should be done up at all times. You will need to be in pairs, as no single seats are available. The seats will be allocated according to age, with the older students having first choice.
- b) At all times listen to the announcements and act upon them.
- c) At stops, we will give you a time to be back on the coach. Be there at the right time. Anyone late, will be given a suitable job to do. The journey cannot be continued until a head count is made, so sit in your seats as soon as possible, to enable this to be done quickly and accurately.
- d) At motorway stops, you should always move around in groups of at least three people.
- e) If you want music on the coach, bring a personal device and headphones.
- f) Only use the toilet on the coach in a **dire emergency**. We shall be making regular stops.
- g) If you feel sick, go to the front of the bus, collect a bag and let a member of staff know as soon as possible.
- h) Keep the coach tidy; put all rubbish in the bags provided.
- i) **Make sure that your passport is in a secure place in your hand luggage.**
- j) Remember to bring a small pillow for the journey.
- k) A blanket can also be a good idea for the night-time part of the journey.

2) On the ferry

- a) When we get on the ferry, we will take you to an area, which will act as a base and meeting point. A member of staff will be there throughout the crossing.
- b) You must not wander off on your own; groups of at least three are essential.
- c) When we are asked to re-board the coach, return to the meeting point and check in with the member of staff in charge of your group.
- d) **Do not go straight down to the coach.**
- e) School parties are not allowed to purchase "tax free" goods i.e.: **cigarettes/alcohol.**

3) Overnight

- a) After arriving in France and a short service stop, we will settle down for a night's sleep. During the night, please do not disturb others who are asleep.
- b) Airline type eye blackouts can be an excellent aid to assist with sleeping.
- c) We shall stop the next morning for a light breakfast and probably arrive in the resort at about 2.00pm.
- d) When we arrive in the resort, our rooms should already be allocated based on year/friendship groups. Miss Treloar will handle any issues concerning the rooming arrangements. Every effort will be made to put friends together, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- e) On entering your room for the first time, check for any damage and inform a member of staff if you find any.

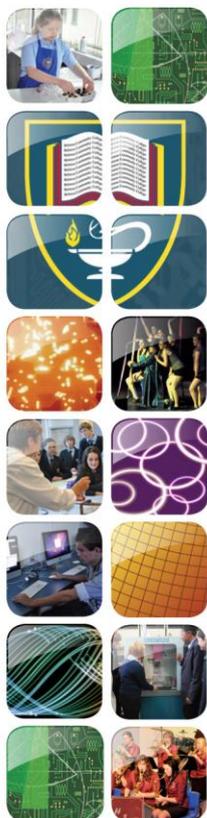
At The Resort

We will be staying at:

Hotel Tre Signori
 Via Vedich, 17
 23030 Santa Caterina SO
 Italy

Tel: 0039 0342 91003

/Cont....



Skiing

Throughout the week, the daily routine will be organised by the College staff in conjunction with the ski instructors. Each morning our students will get a three-hour lesson with qualified Italian ski instructors, and the rest of the day, they will spend their time skiing in ability groups with members of staff. At no time will students be allowed to ski unsupervised. We will consult with the ski instructors when selecting the areas to be used for staff supervised skiing.

After the morning lesson finishes, students will get a hot lunch on the mountain at the Hotel Paradiso which is adjacent to the main nursery slopes. During the lunch break, the staff will sort out the groups ready for the afternoon's skiing. These will largely be based on the instruction groups, with some flexibility according to how students are progressing.

There will be a range of evening activities, possibly including: team competitions, a quiz evening, and a presentation and awards night; these will be organised and supervised by the College staff.

Throughout the week, all of the staff will be taking and storing both video and still pictures, which we will use during the evening meetings and make available to all the students on our return. If you do not wish your son/daughter to be included in this, **please advise us prior to the trip.**

Emergency contact

In the event of an emergency, we will be referring to the Parental Consent Form that you completed. If there have been changes to any information you have submitted about your contact details, or your child's medical needs, then please request a replacement form from reception. This must be submitted prior to the visit.

In the event of a real emergency, or if you should have to contact your son or daughter during the week, I will have a College mobile with me: 07591 938902. You could also ring direct to the hotel and leave a message. Alternatively, Mr Wayne Jenkins, Head of the College (01326 572685) has offered to act as a contact person. He will have a mobile number, which will be available to him at all times. Your son or daughter will of course, be able to use the pay phone at the hotel to phone home, although this can prove to be expensive. Use of mobiles abroad can be prohibitively expensive, so please check with your network before departure.

Return journey

After a final day's skiing on Friday 7th April, we shall hand in the ski equipment, shower and change, have an evening meal and leave the resort. We shall travel back overnight across France to Calais to catch the P&O 09:50 ferry arriving in Dover at approximately 10.20am local time. After clearing customs, we will travel back down to Cornwall arriving back at the bus park at approximately 6.30pm on Saturday 8th April. We will ask the students to ring from Exeter services to confirm our estimated time of arrival back in Helston. The students will need some English money to purchase breakfast on the ferry and a meal at one of the motorway stops.

European Health Insurance Card

The students on the trip have full winter sports insurance cover; details of which are on the Google site. All students will need to bring with them a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This is an individual plastic card, which gives the named person certain free rights to health care in all European Union Countries. If the student does not already have one, it must be obtained by completing the online form via the link on the NHS website. **The EHIC cards need to be handed in to the PE workroom by Friday 3rd March.**

/Cont....



Pocket Money

Students will be responsible for their own currency during the journey, so we do not advise them to take excessive amounts. We are travelling through Euro currency areas, and skiing in Italy where Euros are the preferred currency. Students will be responsible for looking after their money. Each room has its own safe, which we will advise the students to use for their valuables. Please remember that the only things the students will need to buy will be soft drinks with meals, supplementary snack food and souvenirs. The on-mountain prices for food and drinks are quite expensive, but reasonable when compared to resorts in other countries. Please remember, English currency will be needed for both journeys.

Rules for the stay

As members of staff, we must act in “loco parentis” for you. That means that we must show you the care that a caring parent would. We are aware that parents have different ideas of discipline and we have a wide age range in the party, so therefore bear with us if we appear to err on the side of caution.

Whilst this is not a complete list, I want you to remember the following rules: -

- a) Any school party does not allow its members to smoke or consume alcohol whilst on a trip unless they are **18 years of age**.
- b) We have come on the trip to learn to ski, therefore you will be expected to take part in all lessons and supervised skiing, unless a member of staff has specifically excused you.
- c) You are expected to take part in all evening activities.
- d) Students **must not leave the hotel**, unless they have the direct permission to do so from a member of staff **and never on their own**.
- e) The hotel has a lounge area for socialising and also a large meeting room. As a general rule, you should not go into another person’s room and **definitely not those of the opposite sex**.

Sanctions

If students fail to respond to either the rules of the hotel or the staff, then sanctions will be taken.

If disciplinary action has to be taken then: -

- a) Leisure time activities will be restricted
- b) Your parents will be informed, along with the Head of College on return.
- c) Serious breaches of rules will mean parents will be informed immediately and if feasible, the student will be flown home at the parents’ expense.

Finally, may I assure you that my colleagues and I will do everything we can, to ensure that your son or daughter has a memorable and enjoyable ski course.

Yours faithfully

D Gillman
Party Leader & ASCL