

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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2nd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 and Sixth Form Ski Trip to Andalo, Italy – February 2024

For over thirty years we have organised skiing trips for Year 9 and Sixth Form students; these have proved to be very popular. We are now planning a similar event for February 2024 following a successful trip this February. We will be going to the Hotel Costa Verde in Andalo for the eighth time. A video taken from a previous visit is on the school YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldyyou7w0x4>.

The trip will take place during the half-term holiday, travelling on Saturday 10th February and returning on Saturday 17th February 2024.

There are definitely **80 places** on offer for this trip. 40 of the places will be allocated for the Sixth Form (current Y11 and 12 students) and the remaining 40 will be for Year 9 (current Y8) students, but places will be filled by either year group if a particular year group doesn't fill their allocation by the closing date. If numbers are low, we may open it to current Y9 students too. The trip is not on a first come, first served basis. The first 80 student names drawn after the closing date will be those who will secure a place. We will continue to draw the remaining names to provide us with a waiting list, should this be needed. The ski company have said that we **could expand the trip to a maximum of 106**, but this would require a third coach (80 = 2 coaches). Therefore, if we get 106 replies then the students will go. If we get anywhere between 81 and 105, then I will have to contact the company to see if they allow us to go, as we may not reach the number required to make a third coach financially viable.

What does the price include?

Included in the cost, which is **£1135**:

- Coach travel and Channel Tunnel/ Ferry crossing
- Hoody
- 5 nights full board accommodation – Hotel Costa Verde, Andalo - <http://www.hotelcostaverde.it/index.php/it/>
- Hot lunches are provided in a restaurant on the mountain – students can choose what they want (e.g. pizza, chips and a soft drink) and are provided with a voucher each day. Breakfast in the hotel is buffet style; evening meals are three courses and tend to be traditional Italian food.
- 4 hours (days 1 and 2) or 5 hours (days 3, 4 and 5) ski lessons each day and a 5 day lift pass – **students will only ski under supervision**. Qualified ski instructors from the resort deliver all tuition. Students are likely to be in groups of 10-12 and I will allocate a member of Oaklands staff to also ski with that group to help deal with any issues. On the final day we ski as normal, then return to the hotel to change and then leave to drive home.
- All ski equipment hire (skis, boots, poles and helmet) and insurance
- Some evening entertainment (swimming at the local pool, quiz night etc.)

Other Potential Costs

There are a number of other costs that I would like to make you aware of:

- Pre-skiing course at Calshot (for beginners – normally the last week of term in December), approximately £30.
- Ski clothing i.e. salopettes/ski trousers, jacket, goggles, socks, gloves and under layers - cheap options can be found at places such as Sports Direct. Lidl often sells cheap ski clothing around Christmas. In fact, I purchased ski trousers from there for £20 and my wife purchased a ski coat for £25; both are excellent.
- Drinks and meals on the journey – we stop at service stations and will visit a supermarket the day before our return journey to allow students to stock up. Students will need a packed lunch for the day of departure, money for an evening meal on the ferry, breakfast and some lunch for the following day. We will leave immediately after breakfast on the day of return, so students will need money for lunch, an evening meal and breakfast the following day.
- Tourist tax – I have budgeted for this based on the prices last paid in February 2023. I doubt it will change a great deal, but if it does I will have to pass this on to parents (it was 2 Euro per night last time).

Covid issues

- As we use a coach to get to Italy, we will be travelling through France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Italy (we have even been through Switzerland in previous visits too). Each country has their own approach in terms of Covid rules, which could change at any time between now and February 2024. **Essentially, if your child is not fully vaccinated, they run the risk that they will not be able to go – please consider this very carefully when committing to the trip.** Insurance would not cover someone who can't go due to not being vaccinated, as this would be deemed to be disinclination to travel.

Fitness

Skiing is a strenuous activity, so please ensure that your child does the ski exercises we give them to ensure that they have the level of fitness required.

Passport & EHIC/GHIC cards

Students will need a passport and an in-date EHIC or GHIC card in order to travel.

Finance Arrangements

- A deposit of £100 for students is due by Thursday 9th March 2023 (once you have been informed that your child has gained a place, following the ballot on Tuesday 7th March 2023 - parents will be told by Wednesday 8th March whether their child has been successful in gaining a place).
- Second payment - £200 by Friday 31st March 2023
- Third payment - £100 by Tuesday 2nd May 2023
- Fourth payment - £185 by Monday 5th June 2023
- Fifth payment - £185 by Monday 3rd July 2023
- Sixth payment - £185 by Monday 4th September 2023
- Seventh and final payment - £180 by Monday 2nd October 2023.

Our preferred method of payment is online. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Oaklands Catholic School). The £100 deposit is non-returnable. We will transfer this money to the ski company on Friday 10th March 2023. Similarly, we have to pay £200 per person to the company in April and another £100 per person in May – these are also non-refundable once paid. From that point, we only have to pay a final balance to the ski company in mid-November. If you drop out, and it is not for an insurable reason, after that point then we would not be able to refund any payments, unless we were able to find a replacement. Essentially, please don't put your name forward for the trip if you think there is a chance that your child might drop out.

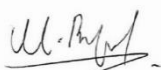
Please note if you are a current Year 11 or 12 student your inclusion is conditional upon you being a member of Oaklands Sixth Form College at the time of the ski trip. Deposits are non-returnable if you withdraw because you are not a member of our college. Therefore, do not apply unless you are absolutely committed to returning in September to the Sixth Form.

As this trip is non-curricular the school is normally unable to offer financial assistance and therefore the full cost of the activity must be borne by yourselves. Payments and accompanying paperwork must be handed in on or before the deadline dates outlined above and late payments will jeopardise your child's place on the trip. If there are any significant changes to the cost of the trip these may have to be passed on to the students. Be assured that we will try to keep such increases to a minimum.

Please complete and return the consent form to the **Finance Office**. THE CLOSING DATE FOR INITIAL RETURNS WILL BE 3:30pm ON **TUESDAY 7TH MARCH 2023**. The draw to allocate places will be made after school on that day and you will be informed whether your child has secured a place by Wednesday 8th March; payment of the first deposit will then be due by Thursday 9th March 2023.

Please be aware that your child's place could be lost if payment is not received by the deadline.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Bamford

Assistant Headteacher – Ski Trip Leader

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ITALY SKI TRIP 2024 REPLY SLIP - to be returned to the Finance Office (not Mr Bamford) by 3:30pm on Tuesday 7th March 2023

I wish my son/daughter Form.....

to be included in the 2024 Ski trip.

Our preferred method of payment is online. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Oaklands Catholic School).

Please tick here if you agree to pay online

In the case of a prospective Year 12 student I understand that the place for my son/daughter is dependent upon his/her returning to Oaklands Sixth Form College in September; the same is true of any current Year 12 students going in to Year 13 in September. I understand therefore that if my son/daughter decides not to return to Oaklands Sixth Form College he/she will not be allowed to accompany the group and that the place and all deposits paid will be forfeited.

I understand that the first three payments are non-refundable. Further payments will not be refunded unless we are able to find a replacement.

Signed:.....Parent/Guardian

Date:

Email address: