

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road

Waterlooville

Hampshire

PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our ref: MB

4th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Ski trip final arrangements letter

I received the final details from the ski company last Thursday, but I have held off writing to you as I was unhappy with the arrangements for the final day/ return journey. Since then I have been trying to get this changed, but after multiple calls and emails, nothing has changed at the time of writing (Tuesday night). They have assured me they are doing all they can to get the timings changed, but with the departure date drawing closer I needed to write to you with the final arrangements, as it stands. If your child has been tracking my posts on the ski trip 'Team', they will be already aware of the situation.

If you remember at the information evening, I said that the intention was to ski on the final morning, have lunch and then return. However, the ski school have not been able to offer longer hours Monday - Thursday to allow us to have just two hours on the final day. Consequently, we will ski on Friday afternoon, finishing our final lesson at 4pm. Normally, we return the ski equipment, get changed and then start our journey. However, the current plan is to return to the hotel at around 5pm, have an evening meal at 7pm and then leave at 11:45pm. The knock-on impact of this is that we will not get back to school until approximately just before midnight on Saturday 22nd February. If the company can get us on an earlier ferry, we will leave sooner and not have the trapped time in resort, with a return time nearer 6pm. However, at the time of writing, the 11:55pm return time stands.



1. Journey times

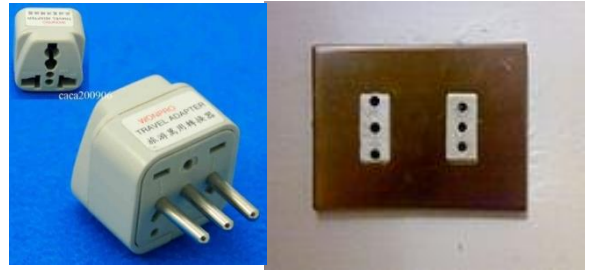
Saturday 15 th February 2025: Outbound	Friday 21 st /Saturday 22 nd February 2025: Inbound
Meet on the school drive by 8:00am at the latest – the coaches will be loaded with the aim to leave at 8:30am.	Ski lessons finish at 4pm, give equipment back, have an evening meal and then pack coaches. Leave at 11:45pm.
Ferry – Dover to Calais at 1:40pm	Ferry – Calais to Dover at 8:10pm (French time – 1 hour ahead)
Arrive in resort at approximately 11am on Sunday	Return to Oaklands at approximately 11:55pm – we will get students to contact home when we are at the top of the A3 and I will post updates on the Ski Team that students can relay to you.

2. Approximate timings/activities during the week

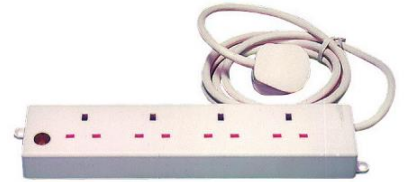
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday	Travelling to resort	Settle in to hotel and do the ski fitting in town	Mass at the local church. Preparing for skiing the next day (lift pass distribution etc)
Monday	Lesson 9-11	Lesson 2-5	Swimming (optional)
Tuesday	Lesson 9-11	Lesson 2-5	Night skiing (floodlit) for Y9 skiers who have had 1+ weeks experience on snow
Wednesday	Lesson 9-11	Lesson 2-5	Walk round town immediately after skiing to experience shops/ café etc.
Thursday	Lesson 9-11	Lesson 2-4	Supermarket/ town for provisions for the journey home and packing for return journey.
Friday	Lesson 9-11	Lesson 2-4	Evening meal, finish packing and load coach.

- 3. Passports and EHIC/GHIC cards:** I will collect these in my office on Friday 7th February between 8:30-9am. When you were given a paper copy of the June ski letter (you filled in the medical form/ code of conduct sheet that was attached), you were told about the need for the EHIC/GHIC card. This was also discussed at the parent information evening. If your child still has an EHIC card that is in date, then that will be fine. However, if that expired you were asked to obtain a GHIC card. - [Applying for healthcare cover abroad \(GHIC and EHIC\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) gives further details.
- 4. Telephone tree:** I have organised a 'telephone tree' that can be used if I need to get a message to parents. In the past I have used this to inform parents of a delay in return, but its main purpose is in the event of a serious incident. I will make one phone call to Mr. Quinn and then the parents who kindly offered to act as a leader for a small group of parents will then pass the message on to the members of their group. I will send this to the parents involved separately. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who offered to help with this; hopefully, you will not be needed. I will also update the Oaklands ski trip 'Team' throughout the week; students could relay information to you from there.
- 5. Suitcases:** As discussed at the parent information evening, please bring one 'normal' sized suitcase/ bag which will go in the hold of the coach. The reason we are meeting 30 minutes before the departure time is so that we can register the students, but also to load the coach. Please pack your ski gloves and a pair of ski socks last, so that they can be easily retrieved when in resort for the ski fit. Make sure your ski coat is kept in the coach as it will be cold during the night when we get out for food/ toilet stops.
- 6. Travel arrangements:** This was outlined on the first page. Please be on time to pick up your child as after a tiring week all those involved will be eager to return home. We will stop at service stations on the journey once on the continent where additional food can be purchased, but I would suggest to your child that they purchase a hot meal on the ferry on the outbound journey. Many of the service stations require you to pay to use the toilet facilities. As a result, I would advise that students have some 50 cent Euro coins just in case. Many students find that a travel pillow/cushion helps them to sleep.
- 7. Ski booklets:** Students will be expected to bring their A5 booklets with them for the trip – new copies will be provided to the students before we go. Please ensure that your child knows which 'muster group' they are in. Your child's ski booklet has a number on it; please ensure that your child knows this number as it will be used on skis, helmets and poles to identify the user. The most up to date version of the booklet is found on the ski trip 'Team'.
- 8. Medication:** Students with medication should give it to a member of staff on the day of departure – Mr Wade or Mrs Hardaker. Some students will be happy to self-medicate, but let the member of staff know your situation. We have lots of paracetamol etc. in the school medical kit that we are taking, so please do not send such items with your child.

9. **Hotel/Rooms:** With the many electronic devices that people have these days, I would suggest that one or two students in each of the rooms takes an extension socket to provide more plug sockets. Students will know the rooms they are in before we go, so could organise this amongst themselves. The room I stayed in last time had rather strange plug sockets. The Italians use a 'type L' socket similar to the one above, but they



come in two sizes: one of them will accept a Euro adapter plug, but the other has holes that are too narrow to take the European plug. I found an Italian adapter on eBay (pictured above), but they don't seem to be readily available. However, the room I stayed in had one adapter that transformed the Italian plug into a standard European one. I was then able to put my European adapter into that – but, with only one in the room, the need for an extension lead like the one pictured on the right is clear.



The room I stayed in did have a fixed hairdryer in the bathroom (useless for me I might add!) and a TV. There was no kettle in there, which is something a

number of students have asked me about. The hotel is very comfortable and the food is excellent. There is a TV room, seating area, a small café/bar, table tennis room and a large room we can use for meetings.

The hotel is about a 10-minute walk from the centre of town – a walk that we are likely to do on a number of occasions. Crucially, the slope is quite steep to get up to the hotel from the road, so sturdy shoes with good grip on snow will be required. There is free wifi, but it is incredibly slow. I think students can pay for the 'better' wifi, if they wish.

10. **Swimming/Towel:** Please bring a towel even if you do not intend to go swimming. However, students who wish to go swimming will only be able to do so if they have **flip-flops and a swimming hat** as the pool has strict rules in this regard. I think they were charging €9 for a swimming hat last year, but it is best to be organised before we go.
11. **Pocket money:** If you would like us to look after your child's spending money whilst we are away, send in an envelope with your child's name and tutor group written clearly on the front with 'Ski Pocket Money' written on the front to the Finance Office. Please do this by no later than Wednesday 12th February. Crucially, the envelope must contain **EUROS** and not pounds as we will not be able to change it. Ideally, we would like the students to look after their own money, but will offer this option if you are adamant that you would like us to do so for your child. I will run this bank facility on the trip.
12. www.paganella.net gives webcams/ maps etc of the resort we will be skiing at, should you wish to have a look. Snow conditions there look good currently.

Hopefully, this letter will provide you with all the information that you require, but please contact me if you have any further questions.

If the timings change for the return journey I will let you know as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature of Mark Bamford.

Mark Bamford – Assistant Headteacher and ski trip leader

m.bamford@oaklandscatholicschool.org