

18th December 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

Update for Iceland Geography Trip ~ due Friday 26th March 2021

Trip Lead: Mr M Potter (Teacher of Geography – mpotter@johnferneley.org)

I would like to begin by thanking you for your patience in relation to the planned international trip to Iceland, due to fly-out on Friday 26th March 2021. I appreciate that correspondence has been limited since our last letter sent to you in October, but it is crucial we review our options in detail and take the best course of action for all parties involved, given the current travel challenges and restrictions.

Unfortunately, it is increasingly apparent that the international trip will not be feasible to fly in March 2021. Please see the latest guidance from the government below, for all school educational trips:

We continue to advise against overseas educational visits. This advice remains under review. In February 2021, the Government will review the possibility of changing advice on domestic residential education visits to resume from Easter 2021, if the scientific evidence allows.

After careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that, in the current COVID-19 situation, there are too many uncertainties relating to flights, accommodation and, above all, the safety of students and staff for the trip to go ahead in March 2021. Staff would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure students' welfare should adult supervisors or students be required to self-isolate or become unwell.

Therefore, **the trip will now take place in March/April 2022**, when, hopefully, the situation will be more settled and safe for travelling abroad. All the payments you have made so far towards the trip will be carried forward to the trip in 2022. As the trip has been postponed, the tour operator has agreed to place the final payment due in January 2021 on hold temporarily. We will keep you informed of the revised payment schedule in the new year.

I would like to cancel my child's place on the trip - what do I do next?

If you would like to cancel your child's place on the trip for March 2021, because your child will no longer be a student at John Ferneley, then please inform myself immediately on the email address below (mpotter@johnferneley.org), so we can look to refill spaces, as quickly as possible next year. Those who cancel with us, will receive a full refund – see below.

Cancellations: With regards to the payments that have already taken place, we are now in a position where we will have to make a claim against the school's insurance policy for the money that has been paid thus far. It is likely that this will take some time, as the insurance industry continues to face pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please can I ask you for your continued patience whilst we work with Zurich to return all money.

Continue overleaf.....

Although this is not our preferred option, I hope that this is a satisfactory resolution to all parents/guardians and students. We do not take a decision like this lightly, but our primary concern is for the safety of all students and staff.

I appreciate that your child will be disappointed by this decision, but it is essential to put the safety of students and staff first.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Potter
Teacher of Geography
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