

Ref: 019/17

March 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Boston, Vermont and New Nork Ski Trip 2018

We have been able to secure availability for the Ski **Trip of a Lifetime** to Jay Peak in Vermont, USA with Visions in Education.

Located on Jay Peak in Vermont's Green Mountains, is home to some of the East's best terrain providing skiers and riders with amazing tree glades, long groomed trails, and abundant natural snowfall. The resort lies just south of the Canadian border near the town of Jay, Vermont.

The Trip dates are Sunday, **25th March** to Sunday, **1st April 2018**.

The trip is for 8 days including 5 day's skiing and one night / day in New York.

Flying from Manchester to Boston we will travel to Jay peak, Vermont. En-route to resort we will be sight-seeing in Boston including an American shopping outlet visit.

In resort we will have 5 days skiing which incorporates 5 hours of lessons per day and Jay Peak ski clinic. All lift passes, equipment, Helmets and Winter Sports insurance and half board accommodation is included.

Situated in the basement of the adjacent hotel is the massive Pumphouse indoor waterpark. We will have 2 evenings use of this superb facility.

Before returning home we will spend a night and a day sight-seeing in the magnificent City of New York, before returning home to Manchester.

Each evening will have an entertainments programme which might consist of the following options:-

Resort welcome party
Snow shoe tour with complimentary hot chocolate
Ice curling in the Ice Haus Arena
Ice Skating
Ice hockey match depending on an appropriate fixture
Snow sculpture contest
Snow tubing
Ski School graduation party
Disco night
Karaoke
911 tour (New York)
Top of the rock (New York)
Sightseeing (Boston & New York)

Further information

<http://jaypeakresort.com/pumphouse/waterpark>

<http://visionsineducation.co.uk/ski-board-tours/north-american-ski-destinations/jay-peak-vermont/>



Visions in Education

We offer this trip through Visions in Education who offer excellent outside the classroom educational experience. This is not simply a sightseeing tour it is a fully immersive, hands on trip of a lifetime. Exposing students to different cultures, activities and ways of life we aim to broaden your son's interests and inspire them.

Skiing

Vermont's excellent snow record and tree lined runs ensure that the resort keeps its snow until well after most other resorts are closed. With 78 runs covering more than 385 acres there is a great range of skiing for all abilities. The runs are broken down as follows - 20% Novice, 40% Intermediate, 40% Advanced.

Accommodation

Jay Peak's Stateside Baselo lodge Hotel is a ski-in-ski-out, deluxe hotel situated conveniently for all skiing and evening activities. Rooms are en-suite with TV and internet access. There is also an outdoor Hot Tub to soothe aching muscles after a good days skiing.

Whilst in New York the accommodation will be the Hilton Newark Hotel (or Similar).

Cost

The cost of the trip is **£1699** with the maximum number of places being 43. However, if there is not enough uptake for this trip to be viable then we may look into an alternative ski trip. The tour operator requires an initial deposit of £200. Two further deposits of £200 and £100 will be built into an instalment style payment scheme with the final balance due 10 weeks before departure. To help with the cost we intend to arrange for students to carry out some fundraising, this will also help to better understand the finances and work involved in such trips.

When in resort Visions in Education will provide a small reward for students who complete all payments on time.

We have been running the Ski trip since 2007 and it proves exceptionally popular. With this being a trip of a lifetime we seek to take students whose behaviour record shows that they fully support the work of the classroom and have full respect for the authority of teaching staff and other adults with whom they come into contact. Students whose present behaviour record raises cause for concern, for example those who have been detained too many times, spent times in the Internal Exclusion Unit or been excluded from school, and whose attitude could cause the name of the school to be brought into disrepute will not be selected. If your son is guaranteed a place on the trip and is later withdrawn due to poor behaviour, all money will be non-refundable unless a suitable replacement is found. The students will be selected by lottery.

If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding then the school will contribute £100 to the cost of this trip for your son.

Summary

The trip is for 8 days, 5 nights in Jay peak and 1 night in New York including:-

Flights to Boston, sightseeing in Boston and shopping outlet trip en-route to resort.

5 full days skiing with 5 hours instruction and ski clinic

Comprehensive Winter Sports insurance

2 nights in the 'Pumphouse' Water Park

Lift passes, Ski equipment and Helmets

Overnight stay in Hilton Newark hotel and a day sightseeing in New York City.

Return flights from NYC airport or JFK airport.

Comprehensive evening entertainments

To take advantage of this educational visit we are required to send a deposit of **£200** per student by **Friday 31st March 2017**.

Once your son's place has been confirmed a payment plan will be arranged. We will then write to you with full details of the excursion and the date of a Ski Trip Information Evening.

Cheques should be made payable to; '**St Margaret's C of E Academy fund AC**'. The tear off slip should be completed and returned with your cheque in a sealed envelope addressed to Mr Jones, Ski trip 2018, Jay Peak USA, with the pupil's name and form on the envelope.

I hope you will consider this an excellent opportunity and anticipate your response.

Trip Agreement and Consent Form

This is physically demanding trip, you must make us aware of any pre-existing ailments that your child has suffered from right up until the trip occurs so that we are aware and can make appropriate provisions for him. If your son successfully gains a place you will be issued with a medical form in due time so that you can detail any needs or difficulties he has.

As you will understand it is a privilege to be selected to enjoy this experience, which takes place during term time. Hence your son's behaviour must meet the standards expected of him both before the trip and during it. Should your son's behaviour give cause for concern you will in the first instance, be contacted to discuss the matter. In the event of any subsequent, significant poor behaviour, your son may lose his place on the trip. In the rare event of this happening, I will endeavour to find a replacement student. However, all payments made to the tour operator are non-refundable therefore you may lose all payments you have made if your child is removed from the trip.

The staff will provide instruction and care to ensure the Health, Safety and well-being of your child. With these issues in mind, students are expected to abide by the instructions of the staff at all times. Your child will be responsible for his own property such as clothing and electronic devices and for some elements of personal safety such as applying sun screen etc.

Please state below any prior experiences your child has had of multiday excursions at St. Margaret's including if they have been unsuccessful in attending a previous trip. We will consult our records to confirm this.

Please discuss the agreement above with your son and complete and return the attached reply slip with the initial deposit.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S. Jones
(Alpine Ski Course Leader)

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Ski Course, 2018 Jay Peak, USA

Name of student _____ Form _____

I authorise that my son can go on the Ski Trip to Jay Peak, USA on the 25th March 2018 and **enclose the £200 initial deposit.**

I have read and accept the terms and conditions of the letter and trip agreement form and understand that the offer of a place will be made in the light of the selection criteria described in the letter and that the school's decision is final.

If for any reason my son is unable to accompany the party, I will notify the school immediately, so that his place can be offered to someone else. I understand that if my son is unable to travel, or if my son is withdrawn from the experience because of consistent/serious poor behaviour that, in the event of this happening and a suitable replacement not being able to be found, that once accepted, all monies paid are non-refundable.

Has your child had any experience of multiday excursions at St. Margaret's before?
YES/NO

If 'YES' what trip(s) has he been on?.....

Signed.....Student Date.....

Signed.....Parent/Carer Date.....