



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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14th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Ski and Outdoor Education Residential Visits Update

Now we have all settled back into school with our Covid-19 control measures embedded into day to day school life, our attention turns to the KS3 residential visits planned for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Current Department of Education and Local Authority guidance is clear that there should be no overseas residential visits. Similarly, the Foreign Commonwealth Office are continually reviewing and updating their travel corridor and quarantine lists.

It is also important to consider whether specific trips remain viable, even if all current restrictions are lifted. It is likely that many pupils and their families will question whether it is safe to travel and if they can still afford the cost. If a significant number of pupils drop-out, it would jeopardise the trip 'experience' and certainly increase the cost for the remaining attendees

Whilst much is unknown about the timescales for reinstating overnight overseas excursions, travel restrictions in one form or another will likely remain in place for some time. We therefore are now faced with the unenviable task of deciding whether to commit to future trips that are part-paid or to cancel now to prevent financial losses to both the School and parents.

We also needed to consider how we could maintain the safety of both pupils and staff on the trip and those remaining in school; there may not be sufficient staff to cover the classes back on school premises particularly if staff suddenly found they needed to quarantine upon their return to the UK.

Finally our Ski Holiday provider has stated that monies would only be refunded if FCO advised against travel and not if it is the Department of Education or our Local Authority. Therefore making it harder to recover costs when cancellation occurs close to the date of travel.

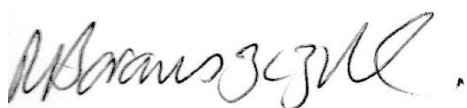
Whilst we were reluctant to disappoint our pupils who were looking forward to the **ski visit**, we had to take all of these concerns into consideration. Ultimately there were too many uncertainties and wishing to avoid incurring any financial loss to our families, **we have taken the decision to cancel the ski visit**. Given that it is the school that has made this decision, the school will be liable to a cancellation charge. Please be assured that this will not be passed onto parents. Therefore money paid by parents will be fully refunded. We do however, ask for your patience whilst we administer the ski visit refunds.

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With regards to the **Outdoor Education Residential visits**. We had requested for the postponed visits to be rescheduled for some time during the summer term 2021 but we are still awaiting confirmation from Entrust if this request can be met. Although domestic residential visits currently have some of the same restrictions as overseas visits, indication is that these may be eased during the academic year. In addition, unlike the Ski visit where parents faced additional costs of purchasing specialist ski wear and passports, the Outdoor Residential visits do not present this additional financial burden. Therefore, we have decided that we will review the situation early in the Spring Term and will advise parents accordingly.

Whilst we appreciate that some parents may feel anxious, even if restrictions have been eased, we ask for your understanding in this matter. Please be assured we will discuss and consider any concerns you may have once we have more facts in the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely



Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher

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