



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



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Dear Parent/Carer

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT - ALPS TRIP 2012

Your son/daughter has opted to take Geography as a GCSE option. For many of the past 5 years, the Geography department has run a trip to the Swiss Alps for Year 10 students. We are very hopeful of being able to run this trip again in April 2012. Below are details of the purpose, *typical* itinerary and pricing of the trip. **At this stage we are just gauging interest from our students in the trip.**

The visit is not a compulsory element of the GCSE course, but offers students the opportunity to experience and observe at first hand both glacial and river features and processes, as well as aspects of urban environments and tourism, enhancing their understanding of several of the units they will study and giving the potential to enhance their interest and increase their final GCSE grade.

The trip normally takes place during the Easter Holidays in April. Travel is by coach and ferry to a small Swiss town called Leysin, where 3-star hotel accommodation and meals are provided for 4 nights. Four full days of tuition are provided by staff. The stay includes a range of academic and recreational excursions. In the past these have included a cable car ride in Chamonix to view the Mer de Glace glacier and some equally spectacular alpine mountain scenery, a visit to Thermal Baths, tours of chocolate and cheese making factories, bowling and ice skating. The itinerary is very full and offers a variety of exciting and informative experiences. A highlight of the trip is the cable car ride up the Aiguille du Midi. It is the highest cable car in Europe offering breathtaking views of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.

The cost of the trip in 2010 was £502. This covered transport, accommodation, meals, insurance and all excursions. Having spoken to the tour operator, Rayburn Tours, **we can estimate that the cost of the trip in 2012 will be approximately £510-520.** This amount can be paid in instalments over the year.

To help with our planning and preparation we would greatly appreciate you completing and returning the reply slip below to indicate **interest** in your son/daughter attending this trip. We must stress that at this point, the trip has not yet been confirmed nor organised – we need to know we have sufficient interest before going any further. Clearly if there is not sufficient interest then the trip cannot run or we will research an alternative proposal. Therefore in order to help us, please be as realistic as possible in your responses. There is no obligation attached. Opting out at this stage does not at all exclude students from attending the trip.

Yours faithfully

David Sladen
Geography Department

REPLY SLIP – GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT ALPS TRIP 2012

Slip to be returned to: Mr Sladen

PUPIL NAME: TUTOR GROUP:

I wish to register a **definite interest** in my child attending the Alps Trip in 2012.

Signed:..... Parent/Carer

Date: *Progress to Success*