

25 September 2024

Dear Parent/carer

Fitzharrys' School Ski Trip to Italy in February 2026

I am pleased to offer students the opportunity to take part in a ski trip from **Saturday 14 February to Saturday 21 February 2026**. Skiing is a hugely popular outdoor sport: this trip will give students the chance to learn a new physical skill, to experience a foreign country for a week, and most importantly to take part in an enjoyable and exciting leisure activity. Although skiing is inevitably more expensive during the school holidays, by travelling then we avoid students missing their schoolwork. We will be skiing the Gitschberg-Jochtal-Plose ski resort located in South Tirol, Italy and staying in hotel in the village, Natz. **Pupils will be required to obtain their OWN UK passports and Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).**

I have outlined full details of the trip below. Please read these carefully.

What is the itinerary?

Day 1	Leave school on Saturday 14 th February 2026 for the ferry or Channel Tunnel. Drive through the night by coach.
Day 2	Sunday 15 th February 2026 Motorway breakfast stop in France (use pocket money or school provided breakfast). Arrive at the Hotel in the early evening. Ski fit in the evening.
Days 3 to 7	Five full days skiing and evening entertainment. There will be five hours of skiing instruction a day with qualified instructors. Groups to be decided based on experience.
Day 7	Friday 20 th February 2026 Skiing in the morning. Depart late afternoon, after dinner. Drive through the night.
Day 8	Saturday 21 st February 2026 – arrive at Fitzharrys in the afternoon.

What is included in the cost of the trip?

- Services of a fully A.B.T.A. bonded company (Ski Team 4) for a secure holiday
- Fully comprehensive insurance (policy available on request)
- No surcharge guarantee
- All coach transport (including use of coach at resort) in modern international coaches
- Ferry or Channel Tunnel crossing
- All meals at the resort which includes packed lunch for the slopes
- Five day full area lift pass
- Hire and use of ski poles, skis, boots
- Helmet hire
- Five full days skiing, with five hours daily instruction by qualified ski instructors from the ski school
- At least two evenings planned entertainment (e.g. bowling, ice skating, swimming)
- A contingency fund against emergencies, gratuities etc.
- Funding for required qualifications for teaching staff
- 24 hour medical assistance without excesses

What is the cost and how would I pay?

The full cost of the trip is **£1420**. We have tried our best to keep this as low as possible. When comparing the cost with brochure prices please compare with peak weeks, including transport, full board, Ski passes for 5 days, 5 hours of ski instructions per day, equipment hire (ski poles, helmets, skis) and evening entertainment. I have weighed up the need to have access to good skiing for beginners and intermediate skiers; reasonable accommodation; access to a good resort town; and the need for a no-surcharge guarantee. We have had several quotes and believe this to be the best value for money. The extra costs you will incur are spending money; and buying or hiring ski clothing. This cost assumes that 50 students sign up. If fewer sign up, we will either cancel the trip and refund all deposits or run it at a higher price if participants so desire. To keep costs down, I would ask you to keep to the following payment plan:

Deposit 1	£120	By Monday 7 th October (non-refundable)
Deposit 2	£100	1 st November 2024
Deposit 3	£100	1 st December 2024
Payment 1	£110	1 st February 2025
Payment 2	£110	1 st March 2025
Payment 3	£110	1 st April 2025
Payment 4	£110	1 st May 2025
Payment 5	£110	1 st June 2025
Payment 6	£110	1 st July 2025
Payment 7	£110	1 st August 2025
Payment 8	£110	1 st September 2025
Payment 9	£110	1 st October 2025
Payment 10	£110	1 st November 2025

All payments to be made via ParentMail. Payment can be of any amount, and paid at any time, provided that the payment deadlines above are met. To hold the advertised price, it is extremely important that these payment deadlines are met.

What clothing is necessary?

You will already have some of the clothing necessary, such as warm pullovers, underlayers, woolly hats. For skiing, outer layers (jacket and trousers) are needed which are windproof and water-resistant. Gloves and goggles are also essential. Clothing is not covered in the cost of this trip, and we would encourage hiring/borrowing from others. Advice will be given on this later.

What other preparation is necessary?

You may wish to attend dry slope lessons beforehand or attend a session at an indoor ski slope. You could arrange this with other members going. This is not essential.

What pocket money will be necessary?

All food, travel, transport, and most evening entertainment costs are provided for in the basic cost of the trip. Students may wish to buy food on the outward and return journeys and whilst on the slopes in the daytime. We would recommend between 120 – 150 euros. When on the trip, we run a 'pocket money' system; staff will take responsibility for students' money and will distribute it daily. We have found that this is particularly useful for the younger students.

What risks are involved?

We cannot guarantee a risk-free trip. Skiing is an action sport; the mountains can become a hostile environment and we are travelling to an unfamiliar town in a foreign country with a group where peer group pressures are likely to become more significant than family boundaries. We will endeavour to manage this risk and make sure that participants are not unreasonably exposed to hazards. Our risk assessments are extensive and can be shared on request. Please be aware that there will be times on the trip when supervision is remote rather than direct – in other words, when students are on their own, having been briefed about rules and behaviour.

In order to manage risk as effectively as possible we will

- Observe the Oxfordshire County Council guidelines on running safe ski trips (copies are available on request)
- Keep students and parents informed through newsletters
- Arrange a meeting for all parents and students, prior to departure. These are particularly useful for parents to raise queries about the trip, and for us to provide additional details.
- Ensure that all students are thoroughly briefed on the discipline, safety and physical preparation requirements of the course

Fitness and Resilience

Skiing is a physically demanding sport so students will require a good level of fitness to get the most out of this experience. We operate a 'no opt out' rule when on the trip, so unless injured, a student will not have a space to sit out of the skiing. Resilience is also important, particularly for first time skiers – it is normal to fall and students will always be encouraged to get back up and try again. The time it takes to learn to ski with confidence, varies. This is all part of the experience.

Who can sign up on the trip?

The trip is being offered to all students in current Yr7 – 11. If your child is in year 11, please be aware that they must be due to attend the JMF 6th form in September 2025. Although we try and cater for all students who wish to attend, spaces are limited.



Please be aware that in-school behaviour will be taken into consideration when allocating spaces.

What if my son or daughter withdraws from the trip later in the year?

If any student is given a place on the trip and later decides not to go, I would be unable to refund payments made unless a straight replacement is found – this would be actioned by the school. Withdrawal through illness or injury or parental redundancy would be covered by the insurance policy.

Where can I find out more?

If you would like to find out more about the resort and the hotel, you may like to consult the following website:

<http://www.skiteam4.com/> : this is the company website, with useful information about the resort and the company through which this trip is organised.

What do I do now?

If you decide that you would like your son or daughter to be considered for a place on this trip, please complete the below form by **Monday 30 September 2024**:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ezyay8smxt>

Once the places have been allocated the deposit will appear on ParentMail. I shall need your **non-refundable deposit of £120 by Monday 7th October 2024 via ParentMail**. We apologise for the short turn around, but the first deposit to the company to secure our place, is due two days later.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries about this trip or to discuss payment – pallen@fitzharrys.school

Yours sincerely,

Miss P Allen

