



January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Heanor Gate Spencer Academy Ski Tour – Axamer Lizum 2024

Happy New Year to you all! We hope the festive period was kind. Now that we have returned to school, we are very excited to say that the ski trip is only 5 weeks away. As such, we are writing to ensure everyone is as fully informed as possible regarding the travel arrangements and to confirm the process for collecting passports and GHIC cards.

Travel details

We will be leaving Heanor Gate Spencer Academy at 3.00pm on Friday 16 February 2024 and following the time schedule outlined below. Staff will be on site from 2.00pm on the day and **can I please ask that you arrive no later than 2.15pm**. This will provide adequate time to load the coaches and ensure a prompt departure. The coaches will be parked in the bays within the main school car park, opposite the main hall. Therefore, please can parents/carers park in the far right hand corner of the large car park which is accessed by driving up the main drive, leaving the side spaces and driveway clear for the coaches. As it is an INSET day, students should arrive in their clothes for travel and **must wear their tour hoodie**.

Travel/logistics	
Date	Activity
Friday 16 February 2024	15:00 depart HGSA
	21:50 EuroTunnel crossing Folkestone; arrive in Calais at 23:25
Saturday 17 February 2024	14:30 arrive in resort
Thursday 22 February 2024	17:30 depart
Friday 23 February 2024	09:50 EuroTunnel crossing Calais; arrive in Folkestone at 09:25
	15:00 arrival back at HGSA (ETA)

We advise that your child brings a pillow for the journey as they will need to get some much needed sleep whilst we travel. They are also permitted to bring any age appropriate DVDs for the on-board TV and are welcome to bring sweets and snacks for the journey. We will be stopping at service stations both in the UK and in Europe so they may wish to either bring some food to eat or sterling/euros to buy some refreshments during the journey. Please note that European service stations sometimes have a charge for the toilets (20 cents/50 cents approximately) so it would be beneficial to have some change to hand. **Students must wear their tour hoodie when getting off the bus at any time during the journeys.** Hoodies are being distributed to students after school on Friday 9 February 2024.

Please note that the ETA back to school is not an exact time and will depend on EuroTunnel crossings and traffic. Updates will be made with you all via X (previously Twitter) and through individual communication with your child.

Student ski meeting

There will be a **compulsory meeting for all students attending the ski trip at 3.00pm on Friday 2 February** in the Sixth Form common room. This meeting is essential, as we will be going over the finalised itinerary with students, organising rooming arrangements and discussing standards and expectations. **The meeting will be from 3.00pm-3.30pm approximately.** If your child is unable to attend, please let us know via email.

Passports and GHIC cards

As discussed at the parents' information evening, we propose to collect all passports and GHIC cards prior to departure. These will need to be handed into reception between 8.00am and 8.40am, at breaktime or between 3.00pm-3.30pm by **Monday 22 January**. This will give us plenty of time to photocopy them and deal with any issues prior to departure. All documents will be stored in the school safe until our departure. If you still haven't received either your child's passport or GHIC card then please contact us immediately.

Spending money

All food during the stay at the resort is included in the price of the trip, including our amazing opportunity to eat at the top of the mountain each lunchtime. There will, however, be opportunities for students to purchase additional items if they so wish, both at the hotel and on our visit to the local swimming pool, as well as on our evening trip to Innsbruck, where they may wish to purchase some souvenirs. The hotel and the cafes on the mountain accept both cash and card so preference is entirely up to you. How much or how little you wish to send your child with is entirely a personal choice.

Tour X (previously Twitter) account

As mentioned, we have a school X (previously Twitter) account for the ski trip. It is a great way to document the trip and for you to see pictures of what the students get up to out on the slopes as well as providing you with travel updates. The twitter handle is @HGSCSKiTouR and we will use the hashtag #axamer2024

Mobile phones

Students are welcome to bring items such as mobile phones, but do so at their own risk. Such items are not covered under our travel insurance and students need to ensure that all of their belongings are kept safe. Whilst out on the slopes, students should leave their mobile phones either in the hotel or in their pockets well out of reach. Safety on the slopes is of paramount importance and students cannot afford to be distracted in any way. Now that we are also out of the EU, various providers have made changes to their European roaming policies. As the wifi in the resort is not great, we suggest you check your child's phone allowance prior to travel.

Smoking and alcohol

Smoking, vaping and the consumption of alcohol is prohibited for all students, regardless of age. Students must not attempt to buy prohibited items whilst on the trip and anyone caught with such items will be sanctioned and risk elements of the trip being heavily restricted.

Kit List

As a reminder, a proposed kit list is linked below:

 [What to pack - ski trips.pdf](#)

We hope all of the students are looking forward to the trip and if you require any further information at all then please feel free to contact us via email at skileads2024@heanorgatespencer.com

Yours sincerely



Miss Stout



Mr Allen

Trip Leaders