

April 2010

Dear Parent

GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND - APRIL 2011

The Geography Department are currently planning a 4 day trip to Iceland, running from Friday 1 April to Monday 4 April 2011.

The trip will involve tours of the unique and fantastic geographical landscapes found in Iceland, including the South Shore Adventure, where pupils will visit the 200ft high Skógafoss waterfall, the black volcanic beaches and basalt columned cliffs of the Dryhólaey coast. Pupils will be provided with an opportunity to observe the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) and experience the power of Geo-thermal activity by swimming in the Blue Lagoon. Finally the Golden Circle tour provides an opportunity to see wonders of Geo-thermal activity at Hveragerdi's Eden Centre, witness the famous Strokkur geysers and explore the Bingvellir National Park, where pupils can see the Mid Atlantic Ridge above sea level (the only place in the world where this is possible). This trip will provide pupils with a once in a lifetime opportunity to enrich their understanding and experiences of the wonders of Geography. Please visit the Iceland trip link on the college website and VLE to gain a better visual understanding of these incredible sights.

The trip will be of greatest benefit to those studying, or planning to study GCSE Geography, but will not be restricted to these pupils alone. We are offering places to current Year 9 and 10. We do however reserve the right to refuse places to pupils whose behaviour may jeopardise the success or safety of the trip and any pupils who do not fully commit themselves to participation and a positive attitude during curriculum time may also be withdrawn.

The cost for this package will be £775 per pupil (the final cost may reduce slightly depending on the number of pupils). This includes flights, insurance, accommodation, all meals and excursion costs. I will communicate a detailed programme closer to the trip date. However, parents should be aware that we do not know precise flight times yet. Past experiences show that a very early morning arrival or departure may be necessary.

The tour operator through which the school is booking is NST, who have been organising school adventure trips for some forty years. This company has been chosen because of its excellent reputation alongside providing very good value for money; not because it is the cheapest.

Whilst participating, the children will be continuously supervised by members of teaching staff from the college, on a ratio of 10 pupils to 1 member of staff.

If you wish for your child to be included in this visit, please return the attached form along with a £100 non-returnable deposit. The closing date will be **Friday 21 May 2010**. If we are oversubscribed, I will draw names out of a hat and deposits will be returned to those who failed to secure a place. Those confirmed on the trip will be required to make a second payment of £100 eight weeks later. The final balance will be payable twelve weeks before our departure.

Any deposits paid are **NON-REFUNDABLE** unless covered by the insurance policy. Details of this cover will be supplied later. **DISINCLINATION TO TRAVEL IS NOT COVERED BY THE INSURANCE** and you will not be able to claim a refund.

Cheques should be made payable to **Swanmore College of Technology**. Please write the **name** of your child on the reverse of the cheque together with **his/her tutor group** and the title **ICELAND TRIP 2011**. Place the reply slip and the cheque into an envelope bearing the child's name and tutor group and return to **Mr S Smith in the Geography Dept.**

Should you have any questions relating to this trip, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

S Smith (Mr)
Head of Geography / Assistant Director of Attenborough
Party Leader

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Please return to Mr S Smith by Friday 21 May 2010

Pupil's Name Tutor Group

I wish for my son / daughter to be included in the Iceland Trip 2011 and enclose a non refundable deposit of £100.

Signed (Parent / Guardian)