

Ref: 051/19

May 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Boston, Vermont and New York Ski Trip 2020**

We have again been able to secure availability for the Ski **Trip of a Lifetime** to Jay Peak in Vermont, USA with Visions in Education.

Having taken 50 students on this trip in 2018 we are excited to offer it again this time with an upgrade to the Hotel Jay that contains the 'Pumphouse' waterpark.

Located on Jay Peak in Vermont's Green Mountains, is home to some of the East's best terrain providing skiers and riders with amazing tree glades, long groomed trails, and abundant natural snowfall. The resort lies just south of the Canadian border near the town of Jay, Vermont.

The Trip dates are Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The trip is for 8 days including 5 days of skiing and one night / day in New York.

Flying from Manchester to Boston we will travel to Jay peak, Vermont. En-route to the resort we will be sight-seeing in Boston including an American shopping outlet visit. In resort we will have 5 days skiing which incorporates 5 hours of lessons per day and Jay Peak ski clinic. All lift passes, equipment, Helmets and Winter Sports insurance and half board accommodation is included. Situated inside the Hotel Jay is the massive Pumphouse indoor waterpark. We will have 2 evenings use of this superb facility. Before returning home we will spend a night and a day sight-seeing in the magnificent City of New York, before returning home to Manchester.

Each evening will have an entertainments programme which might consist of the following options:-

- Resort welcome party
- Pumphouse water park (2 nights already included)
- Indoor Climbing and Film night at clips and reels
- Ice curling in the Ice Haus Arena
- Ice Skating or Ice hockey match depending on an appropriate fixture
- Snow sculpture contest
- Ski School graduation party
- Disco night

The example itinerary for the day in New York (as per the last trip) would be:- Battery Park to see the statue of Liberty, 911 memorial visit, subway ride to Grand Central station for lunch, Top of the Empire State Building, and Times Square visit before boarding the coach.

## Further information

<http://jaypeakresort.com/pumphouse/waterpark>

<http://visionsineducation.co.uk/ski-board-tours/north-american-ski-destinations/jay-peak-vermont/>



## Visions in Education

We offer this trip through Visions in Education who offer excellent outside the classroom educational experience. This is not simply a sightseeing tour it is a fully immersive, hands on trip of a lifetime. Exposing students to different cultures, activities and ways of life we aim to broaden your son's interests and inspire them.

## Skiing

Vermont's excellent snow record and tree lined runs ensure that the resort keeps its snow until well after most other resorts are closed. With 78 runs covering more than 385 acres there is a great range of skiing for all abilities. The runs are broken down as follows - 20% Novice, 40% Intermediate, 40% Advanced.

## Accommodation

The Hotel Jay is a ski-in-ski-out, deluxe hotel situated conveniently for all skiing and evening activities. Rooms are en-suite with TV and internet access. There is also an outdoor Hot Tub to soothe aching muscles after a good days skiing. Whilst in New York the accommodation will be the Hilton Newark Hotel (or Similar).

## Cost

The cost of the trip is **£1685** (excluding spending money). The tour operator requires an initial **non-refundable** deposit of £200. The rest of the cost may be paid in full or by instalments set out on ParentMail. If you choose to pay by instalments, it is important that you adhere to the payment plan as regular payments need to be made to the tour operator. All monies

must be paid by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020. To help with the cost we intend to arrange for students to carry out some fundraising, this will also help to better understand the finances and work involved in such trips. In line with our Charging Policy, pupils for whom we receive Pupil Premium funding (Eg those entitled to, or previously entitled to Free School Meals) will have £100 paid by St Margaret's after the initial deposit has been received. However, please note that we require a **non-refundable** deposit from all students including those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

When in resort Visions in Education will provide a small reward for students who complete all payments on time.

### **Allocation of places**

We have been running the Ski trip since 2007 and it proves exceptionally popular. There are 50 places for the trip. If the trip is oversubscribed, priority will be given in the first instance to pupils who have less experience of St Margaret's multi-day school trips in the past. Please indicate on the slip below any trips that your son has participated in. With this being a trip of a lifetime we seek to take students whose behaviour record shows that they fully support the work of the classroom and have full respect for the authority of teaching staff and other adults with whom they come into contact. If your son is granted a place on the trip and is later withdrawn due to poor behaviour, all money will be non-refundable unless a suitable replacement is found.

### **Summary**

The trip is for 8 days, 5 nights in Jay peak and 1 night in New York including:-

Flights to Boston, sightseeing in Boston and shopping outlet trip en-route to resort.

5 full days skiing with 5 hours instruction and ski clinic

5 nights stay in the Hotel Jay half board

Comprehensive Winter Sports insurance

2 nights in the 'Pumphouse' Water Park

Lift passes, Ski equipment and Helmets

Overnight stay in Hilton Newark hotel and a day sightseeing in New York City.

Return flights from Boston Airport or JFK airport.

Comprehensive evening entertainments

To take advantage of this educational visit, please complete the Trip Agreement and Consent Form and return it to the school office by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**. Please **do not** include the deposit at this stage.

Once your son's place has been confirmed, the payment schedule will be added to your ParentMail account. We will then write to you with full details of the excursion and the date of a Ski Trip Information Evening.

I hope you will consider this an excellent opportunity and anticipate your response.

**Trip Agreement and Consent Form**

This is a physically demanding trip, you must make us aware of any pre-existing ailments that your child has suffered from right up until the trip occurs so that we are aware and can make appropriate provisions for him. If your son successfully gains a place you will be issued with a medical form in due time so that you can detail any needs or difficulties he has.

As you will understand it is a privilege to be selected to enjoy this experience, hence your son’s behaviour must meet the standards expected of him both before the trip and during it. Should your son’s behaviour give cause for concern you will in the first instance, be contacted to discuss the matter. In the event of any subsequent, significant poor behaviour, your son may lose his place on the trip. In the rare event of this happening, I will endeavour to find a replacement student. However, all payments made to the tour operator are non-refundable therefore you may lose all payments you have made if your child is removed from the trip.

The staff will provide instruction and care to ensure the Health, Safety and well-being of your child. With these issues in mind, students are expected to abide by the instructions of the staff at all times. Your child will be responsible for his own property such as clothing and electronic devices and for some elements of personal safety such as applying sun-screen, wearing a helmet when skiing etc. Please state below any prior experiences your child has had of multiday excursions at St. Margaret’s including if they have been unsuccessful in attending a previous trip. We will consult our records to confirm this.

***Please discuss the agreement above with your son and complete and return the attached reply slip to the School Office by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Please do not include a deposit at this stage.***

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S. Jones  
(Alpine Ski Course Leader)

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**Reply Slip To: School Office** - Ski Course, 2020 Jay Peak, USA - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

I would like my son \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_ to be included on this Ski trip.

I understand that all payments are to be made via ParentMail +Pay and the deposit as outlined above will be non-refundable.

Has your child had any experience of multiday excursions at St. Margaret’s before? YES/NO

If ‘YES’ what trip(s) has he been on? \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(parent/ carer) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print below for our information your son’s full name as it appears on his passport.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of travel \_\_\_\_\_