11th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Expression of interest for a ski trip in 2020**

Students in Year 9 recently wrote to Mrs Wild and I, asking us to consider a ski trip for them. It was a compelling letter and I have attached it for you. After discussion, we feel that this is something that we can consider for Year 9 but it will depend on a viable number of students participating.

For many years we participated in the Surrey Special Schools Ski Trip and this was a fabulous experience for our students. If we were to run a trip in 2020, we would plan to do this independently but booked through a specialist school travel operator. Some very initial enquiries have identified that a week in Italy in the middle of January is the most cost effective. The approximate cost currently is £1000 for one week. This includes flights and transfer to the hotel, full board accommodation, hire of skis, boots and a helmet, lift pass and 6 days of ski school (with only students from Limpsfield Grange in the group). Additional costs would be a small amount of spending money for some evening activities in the resort and the cost of buying or hiring a ski jacket and salopettes for your daughter. Your daughter will also need a passport. The cost to travel by coach is slightly less but having experienced this return 40 hour journey many times on other school trips, it is the part that the students find hardest and can leave them feeling quite tired for the first few days, hence why we would be traveling by plane.

I appreciate that it is an expensive trip but I hope that it is helpful to have twelve months in which to plan and budget for such an expense and to be assured that I believe this is a similar cost to ski trips being offered by mainstream schools. I have made it clear to the students that if their parents are to consider it, they will most likely expect their daughter to make a contribution towards the trip themselves, either through pocket money, birthday or Christmas presents or by doing things to earn money. Students gain the most benefit from a ski trip when they are fit, as it is a physically demanding activity, not just the skiing but carrying their own skis, whilst wearing ski boots, so this would be something to consider with your daughter. It is also important that she is not scared of heights. It is essential that if your daughter has not flown before, you talk through this experience with her.

If you would like to express your interest in your daughter participating in a ski trip in January 2020, then I would be really grateful if you could let me know by **Friday 4th January 2019.** If you have any questions, then I would be happy to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Phillips

Deputy Headteacher