

October 2024

Dear Parents

Ski Trip 2026

After a fantastic ski trip in Easter 2024, I am pleased to announce that we are again organising a ski trip for 2026. The trip will be departing school on Saturday 28 March and returning on Saturday 4 April. This trip will be for the current Year 8 and Year 9 who will be Year 9 and Year 10 at the time of travel. We are able to take 40 students on this trip. To make it fair, in the first instance, there will be 20 places available for each year group. For this trip we will be travelling to the lovely resort of Pila in the Aosta Valley, Italy, and Hotel Chateau. We will be travelling with Interski a company that we have used on all our recent ski trips that provide an outstanding service.

Pila

It is a lovely ski area for skiers of all abilities. Interski are a fantastic company to travel with and offer an excellent experience for students. They have a longstanding relationship with the resort and the local people and a very good reputation there.

Pila has a bewitching natural landscape with a magnificent view sweeping the Alps, from Mont Blanc to Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn. There are 70 kms of perfectly maintained pistes, modern ski lifts, 400+ snow cannons (meaning superb snow-making) and a tempting mix of tree-lined runs and vast, wide, open spaces. Interski 2022.

<https://www.interski.co.uk/Schools/resort.php?rld=3>

The Hotel Chateau

The 3* Hotel le Château is situated in the village of Aymavilles, just 8km from Aosta, and at the foot of the Gran Paradiso National Park. The hotel is approximately 15/20 minutes away by coach from the Pila gondola. The village is fairly quiet, with a few shops and a splendid castle.

The hotel is family-run and very pleasant, with generously-sized rooms, all of which have private facilities, hairdryers, telephone and colour TV. There is a large lounge area, a TV room, a lift and spectacular views from the terrace. Rooms are mostly for 2 or 3 people and all have balconies. The hotel can accommodate groups of 47 maximum.

<https://www.interski.co.uk/Schools/hotel.php?hld=54&rld=3>

Why Go?

This is a fantastic opportunity for complete beginners or intermediate/advanced skiers to enjoy skiing in breathtaking mountain scenery whilst also benefitting from the cultural experience that a foreign country offers. Travelling and staying away from home will also help pupils become more independent, develop more confidence and strengthen many of the great friendships that they have. Many students who go on school ski trips pick up a new skill (and passion) that stays with them for life. We understand this is an expensive trip but it will be a wonderful experience and give life long memories.

How much does it cost?

The cost per person is **£1499.00** which can be paid in instalments prior to the trip via My Child at School. Below I have included a payment schedule.

The cost includes:

- Accommodation: 5 nights' hotel accommodation on a half-board basis.
- Hot Lunches: Vouchers for daily lunches, taken on the mountain.
- Lift Pass: 5 day lift pass for the ski area of your chosen resort (please see important information below).
- Travel: By Coach.
- Tuition: 5 day snowsports course with a minimum of 20hrs tuition with fully qualified English-speaking instructors.
- Ski & Boot Hire: From our preferred local equipment hire centres.
- Helmet Hire: Also from our preferred local equipment hire centres
- Après-ski Activities: An exciting and varied après-ski programme with all entrance fees included.
- Insurance: Comprehensive winter sports insurance.
- Awards: Your ski school will present all students with certificates.

Only some meals en-route and pocket money (no more than £15-20 per day recommended) are not included.

I am hopeful that this will be the final cost of the trip but there may be additional costs depending on cost of living, world events and any travel restrictions.

What do I need to do next?

For the trip to go ahead we need **40 students** to go. If you would like your child to go on the trip, please complete the forms link for their Year Group below. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. It must be remembered that skiing is an extreme sport, for students to fully enjoy the week they need a good level of fitness and we will expect them to ski at all times as a lot of money is being spent for them to go on the trip.

The last ski trip was heavily oversubscribed very quickly and there was a long waiting list.

Year 8 Student's Sign up Link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kyQ5oCzYEWtMU-piuzRclT0q0-C2x5Er4jQV82HYV9UQkCwRTFZVzY2TjNaRzBaR0hCWTFJTk5HUS4u>

Year 9 Student's Sign up Link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kyQ5oCzYEWtMU-piuzRclT0q0-C2x5Er4jQV82HYV9UQ0IISjY3OFZERzBLMVRKRzc2OUtMT1JWNy4u>

The final date to register your interest for the Ski trip is **Monday 7 October**.

Those students who secure a place on the trip will be written to again so that the initial deposit can be paid by 8 November 2024

Please find a list of the instalment programme for the payments:

Initial Deposit (Non-refundable):	£250 by Friday 8 November 2024
Instalment 2:	£200 by Friday 7 February 2025
Instalment 3:	£200 by Friday 4 April 2025
Instalment 4:	£200 by Friday 4 July 2025
Instalment 5:	£200 by Friday 5 September 2025
Instalment 6:	£150 by Friday 7 November 2025
Instalment 7:	£150 by Friday 19 December 2025
Instalment 8:	£149 by Thursday 8 January 2026

It is important that this payment schedule is followed so that the final payment to Interski can be made by 17 January 2026.

Please note that once initial deposits have been paid to Interski they are not refundable, and terms and conditions apply. If we do not receive sufficient interest in the trip, then unfortunately it will not be possible for it to go ahead.

Please also be aware that as with all trips we offer, the school reserves the right to decline places for students if it is felt their behaviour displayed around school previously could represent a health and safety concern on the ski trip / ski slopes.

Finally

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in the trip, please don't hesitate to contact me as trip leader on littlechildg@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Mr. Gary Littlechild
Ski Trip Leader