Chase Terrace Academy
Bridge Cross Road
Burntwood
WS7 2DB
E: office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk
W: www.chaseterraceacademy.co.uk
T: 01543 682286

18 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: OPTIONAL VISIT TO ICELAND 2026

The Geography Department is very pleased to announce our intention to take a Key Stage 4 and 5 fieldtrip to Iceland in early February 2026. This will be a Geography field trip, which will form part of the school's enrichment programme, and for many pupils, it will be the highlight of their Geography course and time at Chase Terrace Academy. We regard it as an excellent opportunity for our pupils to experience life in a very different environment, rich in tectonic and geothermal activity, to support their academic progress.

The proposed trip is with Rayburn Tours and staying The Skalinn Centre Hvolsvöllur. The small town of Hvolsvöllur has an excellent outdoor swimming pool with three hotpots. Boasting a superb view along the valley of Fljotshlið, the accommodation is also in close proximity to three icecaps, glaciers, volcanoes (Eyjafjallajökul), numerous waterfalls, and Vestmannaeyjar, the site of a major volcanic eruption in 1973.

The trip will be open to Year 11 and 13 pupils in the academic year 2025-26 studying GCSE or Advanced Level Geography (current year 10's and year 12's). Due to the nature of the environments we visit, places are limited. This experience will look at glacial, river and waterfall features and formation along with extensive tectonic studies. The amazing landscape, seascape and skyscape are truly unique and students cannot help but be thrilled by the new sights and sounds they experience. This is a defining moment for any Geographer, and one that will remain with them for life.

At such an early stage of planning, many of the costs (e.g. flights and accommodation) are yet to be released. Therefore, the cost is extremely difficult to declare. The previous excursion to Iceland (Feb 2020) was £1290 which included: -

- Return flights to Keflavik with all coach hire and transfers
- Return coach transfer from the airport to Chase Terrace Academy
- Travel insurance
- 3 nights / 4 days full board accommodation (bed, breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal)
- All local taxes
- Resort representative

All study material, excursions including the stunning Secret Lagoon, The Geysir area, Gullfoss, Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss Waterfalls, Thingvellir National Park, Kerio Crater, Hekla and Katla Volcanoes, a Glacial walk up the Solheimajokull Glacier, daily swim in the local outdoor swimming pool as well as a nightly Aurora Borealis watch.

Please note that your child will be required to have his/her own passport with 6 months validity and Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).

Participants attending this visit will need to have a record of good behaviour and demonstrate that they can obey safety and other rules. **Anyone whose behaviour becomes unacceptable after the trip has been booked may be excluded or required to return home early and any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of their parents**. Your child will be expected to be responsible enough to wear any seatbelt provided until informed that it may be released.

All participants will need clothing and equipment on the equipment list, suitable for the time of year and length of the visit. Details will be provided closer to the departure date.

What if my Childs place is cancelled?
Occasionally parents/carers decide to cancel their child's place on visits. Though everything will be done to fill this place, this is not always possible. In this event, the reimbursement of monies is dependent on the fulfilment of the place as well as the cancellation terms of the travel company. If you do decide to cancel your child's place you must inform the school immediately. Failure to do so may result in you being charged the full amount for your child's place, irrelevant of whether they attend the visit.

What happens next?
We would like to work with Rayburn Tours to book a date of travel and cost the trip to secure a booking, however to do so, we require confirmed pupil numbers.

I would be grateful if you could complete the 'Expression of Interest' form, to notify us that you would like a place for your child. Please return this to **Mr M Ray by 30 September 2024.**

Upon receipt of returned forms and indicative numbers, the trip will be costed and you will then receive further information and details of the payment plan to secure your childs place on the trip.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to allow your child to attend the fieldtrip to this amazing place. It will be the highlight of their time here at Chase Terrace Academy and they will have a truly remarkable time.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Ray
Trip Leader

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Forms should be returned to **Mr M ray** by no later than 30 September 2024.

Trip: OPTIONAL VISIT TO ICELAND

Date: FEBRUARY 2026

I wish to confirm a place for my child ….....

Personal Development Group …….. to take part in the **OPTIONAL VISIT TO ICELAND** trip.

I understand that

- I am confirming that I would like my child to have a place on the trip;
- The exact travel dates and a payment plan can only be confirmed once indicative numbers are known;
- I am completing this form as a commitment to the trip, so that final arrangements can be made for the school to secure a booking.

Name: ……

Signed: ……..

(Person with Parental Responsibility)

Date……..…