

26 March 2024

Dear parents and carers

I hope you have all had a fantastic start to the New Year and are looking forward to the opportunities that await in 2024.

I am delighted to report fantastic snowfall in resort with 180cm at altitude and 80cm in resort, with forecasts of fresh snowfall through the rest of February. This can only bode well for our trip next month. Looking ahead to March, I can firm up **final travel details and arrangements**.

On a bureaucratic note and an omission on my behalf when I sent out the original form, I do need a formal **Parental Consent** from you all – please [follow the link here to complete this](#).

There is a **Packing List** [here on our website](#).

Departure Saturday 30 March

Your young person should **arrive at Carrington at 9:30am** for a scheduled departure of 10:30am. You are of course welcome on site to wave us off, please use the main lower carpark or upper visitor car park but please don't block Noke Drive as the coach will need access to the main grounds.

We will be checking travel documentation as students arrive so please ensure your young person has their passport and GHIC to hand. We ask that all large luggage is brought to the coach first, a reminder that the coach company have asked for soft **"holdall" bags** rather than large rigid suitcases if possible. Your young person should ensure they have eaten breakfast at home, as our first opportunity to buy food will be at Portsmouth on the ferry.

Travel Clothing

Comfortable clothes for the journey are essential, warm enough for the ferry crossing and comfortable enough for an overnight run of approximately 15 hours to resort. Head pillows are handy and help students doze off. On a personal level, a tooth brush as part of a small hygiene kit is advisable. Please remember that the **ski jacket** should be the only jacket the students bring that week.

Hand luggage

Your young person must have their **passport**, we are not travelling on a group passport and at their age they will be expected to pass through passport control individually. For those without a UK passport please ensure you have the necessary documentation (Schengen visa) and residents' card for return to the UK.



We will also check **GHICs** before boarding the coach, I will not let students travel without one. Once again, the card can be obtained from www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or call 0845 6050 707. Parents of applicants under 16 will need to apply on their behalf. There is no cost for the card and it should be sent to you within 10-12 working days.

Your young person will need some **money/debit card** for the trip, including some **euros in coins** to use at the service station facilities en-route. Personal music players, books, magazines, playing cards or small games will help pass the time.

Snacks that travel well are essential, but please avoid anything that is overly pungent and **no nut products** on board the coach please. **We have a passenger with an airborne nut allergy, so it is essential that no products containing nuts are consumed on board.** Staff will be reminding/checking students at all stops to ensure nothing is brought on board the coach with nuts. Satsumas are nice to clear the palate whilst experience suggests BabyBel and Pringles travel well. Drinks in bottles are better than cans as they can be easily resealed. The first meal in resort will be a hot lunch on Sunday 31 March so please ensure they have enough food and drink to tide them over. **One pair of ski socks** is essential in their hand luggage too as we go straight to ski fit on arrival in resort.

The Journey

The run to Portsmouth should be quite quick and before we know it we will be away across the channel to France and on to Italy! It is quite normal to get searched at Portsmouth on departure, commonly 10% of bags are searched/scanned. Please ensure no alcohol, cigarettes, vapes or other illegal substances are packed in bags. The ferry provides the students with their last opportunity to significantly stretch their legs, buy lunch/snacks should they wish. The Ferry crossing to Caen is 7 hours and I would strongly recommend students have books, magazines and games for this crossing. Once back on the coach, age appropriate films may be shown as we head south, and after a couple of loo breaks we will bed down for the night. There is a toilet onboard, but this is very much for emergency use only, we will take advantage of services as and when the drivers have to swap over.

Evening Activities

We have a number of activities booked, all included within the cost of the trip. We have a meal out in a local pizzeria one night, a cinema evening and a quiz night with some fantastic prizes. Other evenings, the students can relax/chill out in dorms, play games or cards. Five hours of skiing will take its toll, it is amazing how as the week evolves, bed time creeps earlier and earlier!

Covid

Case rates of COVID and other flu type infections are moderate in the community at present, please do your utmost to avoid catching an unwanted bug before departure. If offered a flu jab or COVID booster it would seem wise to accept it. Could I ask that all students have a face mask in their hand luggage, just in case rules change whilst abroad.



Medication

Please remember to bring any personal medication as necessary (asthma inhalers, auto injectors & anti histamine, Ibuprofen, Paracetamol and travel sickness tablets). If there are any specific medical requirements, for example, if you know your young person has a slight knee weakness, it may be wise to include brace or support as a precautionary measure. If you would like to discuss any medical concerns with us in advance, please make time to contact me before we travel (imiles@carringtonschool.org).

Injuries

In the event of an accident/incident involving your young person, I will always inform you myself of any medical assistance required, but please be aware it may be practical to get your young person checked out first and then report back, rather than phoning several times with fragmented updates.

Insurance

All students are insured through the national policy for off-site trips. If you'd like a copy of the insurance document please just let me know.

Spending Money

Since all food and activities are inclusive for the week, your young person only needs cash (euros) for hot chocolates or snacks once off the mountain. I would recommend a non-commission currency card for use abroad which saves carrying cash.

Phones & Electronics

We ask that students **DO** have their phones for the trip, however please **ensure your young person knows how to avoid data roaming charges** when not logged into a WiFi zone as these could prove costly on return. The coach does have USB ports to charge devices so please remember these in your hand luggage. Students will need an **EU travel plug adaptor** for their rooms, plugs with USB ports are widely available now for charging phones and tablets.

Return time

On the return journey, we have a meal voucher which entitles your young person to **a breakfast on the ferry home**. We are due back into Dover at 1:45pm on Saturday 6 April. Allowing for traffic, we should be back in **Redhill about 3.30pm**. We will of course ask your young person to message should the time significantly change.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Mr I Miles

ASCL (Alpine Ski Course Leader)



