

30th January 2024

Re: Proposed Geography trip to Iceland – Easter 2026.

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to you to inform you about our next planned Iceland trip for GCSE geography students. The current plan is to offer to run this trip during the Easter holidays of 2026. We run this trip entirely as an optional enrichment opportunity for students. It is **NOT** a core part of the GCSE course. The trip is purely an opportunity to see some great geography in action in an exciting environment.

The Geography department at Notre Dame have organised eight trips to Iceland since we offered our first one in 2008. It is a well established and very popular trip. I am only at the very early stages of thinking about this trip but I wanted to give people as much notice as possible as I know there are other trips and opportunities that students will want to access at different times in their school life. It might also play a role in options discussions for Y8 students. I am also conscious of the cost associated with such a trip and want to give people plenty of time to have discussions regarding whether it is a trip that is financially manageable.

The proposed trip is dependent upon us gaining permission from our governors as well as keeping a regular eye on the ongoing volcanic situation in Iceland. Our previous trips include many 'classic' tours in South West Iceland, for the first time visitor. These include the Golden Circle tour, the South Shore adventure and the Reykjanes peninsular. These trips are easily found on a simple Google search if you wish to look for some of the sights on these tours. We also try to include a couple of extra activities such as outdoor bathing in geothermally heated baths and a glacier walk.

The trip will likely be available to students who will be in Year 9, 10 or 11 in 2025-26 (current Y7 & 8, 9). The trip would most likely be in the Easter break of 2026. The proximity of the trip to the end of GCSE exams in May/June 2026 for students in Y11 may be something you need to consider. Should the trip be over subscribed, students who are currently studying/have studied/about to study GCSE Geography will be given priority. A random name generator will be used if there are more students wishing to go than places available. If there are any remaining places they will be offered to other students and places allocated by a random name generator. The trip will be for 5 days. Given previous trips and current costings I would estimate the trip to cost approximately £1050 - £1150 which will include return flights, airport transfers, half board accommodation, a glacier walk, a visit to a thermal pool plus the excursions mentioned previously.

I will be in touch again later on this year when we start to plan the proposed trip. If you have any questions at this stage please do feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Pickup

Head of Geography

mpickup@notredame-high.co.uk