



8th April 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Le Massif Ski Trip, Canada: 11th – 19th February 2023

I am pleased to inform you that we are planning to offer a ski trip to Canada for Year 12 and 13 students during the February half-term break in 2023. The resort will be Le Massif in Quebec.

We will be flying to Montreal with Ski Equity, a company which has many years' experience in the school ski trip sector. They are, of course, fully-regulated with stringent risk-assessment policies and legislation, and this trip will be planned in strict accordance with School and Local Authority requirements.

The students will receive expert tuition every day in small ability groups; whether your child is a complete beginner, or whether they have been lucky enough to have skied before, this trip will enable them to develop their skills and enjoy a fun-filled week in spectacular scenery.

The cost of the trip is expected to be approximately **£1920** which includes return travel from the Piggott School to the resort, ski and helmet hire, lift passes, half board accommodation, and travel to Toronto City for a one night stop over. We are hoping to arrange an evening meal in a restaurant in Toronto after a day of visiting the sites, such as the CN Tower (tbc). Please note that the cost of the trip does not include meals in transit, lunches, spending money or ski clothes.

A payment scheme will be put into place so that the expense can be spread over the forthcoming months, with the final balance needing to be cleared by the end of October. Should the numbers participating fall below the required figure then there will either be an increase in the cost or if there is insufficient interest, the trip will not take place. Students in receipt of free school meals, pupil premium or a Sixth Form bursary may be eligible for support towards the cost of the trip – please contact me if you wish to request financial assistance.

Your child's eligibility to travel is your responsibility. There have been many changes to international travel since the pandemic began, and we would therefore like to bring your attention to some of the relevant issues for your consideration:

- Your child will need a valid passport which should have at least 6 months remaining on it. You remain responsible for checking entry requirements and restrictions, particularly those for non-UK passports. Should a visa be required, you will be responsible for obtaining one. To check travel requirements, please visit: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- Visitors to Canada will require electronic travel authorisation (eTA), unless exempt. Please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>
- If evidence of testing (such as a PCR) or other certification is required at the time of travel, you will be responsible for any costs involved and for ensuring your child has the correct documentation in the format required for travel. This applies even if no such requirements were in place at the time of booking. Cancellations due to inability or unwillingness to comply with testing requirements will not be covered by the school's insurance.



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- If, at the time of travel, Canada still requires passengers to be fully vaccinated then our insurance will not cover the cost of cancellation for any unvaccinated passengers as there has been sufficient time to obtain the required vaccinations. Unless your child holds a medical exemption, choosing not to vaccinate would be considered as 'disinclination to travel'.
- If a period of self-isolation or quarantine be required either by the destination country, or the UK upon return, we would not be covered for any associated costs such as quarantine in a government approved facility or loss of earnings.
- We will closely monitor and follow all travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Local rules can sometimes change at very short notice. We are fully insured for cancellation and curtailment arising from changes in travel rules if our trips are booked in accordance with travel rules in place at the time of booking. Parents must be aware that while we will endeavour to give you the most accurate information available to us, any subsequent changes are out of our control and do have the potential to disrupt the trip and affect its cost, therefore your flexibility and understanding of this is appreciated.

There will be a parental information evening prior to the trip, several detailed letters and a comprehensive information pack for students and parents which will be issued once numbers are finalised. Please do contact me at school via telephone or e-mail if you have any immediate questions.

If you would like your child to be considered for a place on this trip, please complete the online 'Expression of Interest' form by **Monday 25th April 2022**. The link to this form is: <https://forms.gle/XPVvM1hsxyhXJ6My8>

It is very important to note that we are only able to take Piggott School pupils on this trip. Therefore, current Year 11 pupils who are not planning on returning to Piggott Sixth Form in September 2022 should not apply.

The nature of the trip will require the highest standards of behaviour and discipline for the safety and enjoyment of all. We are expecting demand to be extremely high. If the trip is oversubscribed, places will normally be allocated by means of a random draw. In exceptional circumstances we reserve the right to not consider applications from pupils where there are concerns that their conduct may compromise the safety of the trip. This situation is extremely rare, and decisions would be made by the pastoral leads and the senior leadership team as appropriate.

I will inform you by letter if your son/daughter has been successful in obtaining a place within two weeks of the 'expression of interest' deadline given above.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Williams
Party Leader (PE) – williamsr@piggottschool.org