



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine

Lode Road, Bottisham
Cambridge CB25 9DL
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HT/bg

January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Ski Trip to Bormio, Italy: Easter Holidays 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)

Action required	Deadline
Pay £100.00 deposit	Friday 31 March 2023
Apply for financial assistance (if applicable)	Friday 24 March 2023

We would like to offer pupils in Year 8 the opportunity to go on an 8-day ski trip to Italy, Bormio. As a multiple World Cup Championship and World Cup host resort, Bormio's extensive ski pistes are incredible for both beginner skiers and those with experience. Two cable cars mean that skiers can ascend over 3,000m, with the run from the top to the resort providing over 1,800m of breath-taking vertical terrain! The trip is being run by specialist group tour operator Rayburn Tours who have been operating trips for schools since 1965. Rayburn Tours are ABTA bonded and ATOL protected, as well as being accredited by Learning Outside the Classroom and the School Travel Forum.

Given the cost of the tickets and booking procedures, the number of students needed to run this trip is 60. If fewer than this apply, then it is likely that the trip will have to be cancelled and all money will be refunded back to you. There is also a maximum number due to the hotel capacity – this is 80 students. If we receive more applications than places, priority will go to those students who expressed interest in the trip when it was originally launched in March 2022. After this, there will be a random allocation of places.

As we indicated at the time, priority will be given to those year 7 students who applied for the ski trip advertised last year, but who did not get a place due to that trip being oversubscribed. These students will now be in year 8.

When is the trip and how will we get to Italy?

This trip is during the Easter holidays 2025. We will leave in the early afternoon on the first Saturday of our Easter Holidays (term dates to be confirmed) from Bottisham Village College and travel via executive coach and ferry (Dover to Calais) to the Italian ski resort of Bormio arriving mid-afternoon on Sunday. We will then spend 5 full days skiing in Bormio and depart in the evening on Friday to travel back via executive coach and ferry (Calais to Dover) to arrive back at Bottisham Village College late afternoon on Saturday.

Where will we be staying on this trip?

We will be staying at the Hotel Nationale in the centre of the town and ski resort of Bormio. This is a 3-star hotel that features shared, en-suite rooms. All rooms have satellite television and free Wi-Fi is available in the hotel. All rooms will be shared by same sex and will be allocated according to pupils' preference and friendship groups.





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Who will be teaching the ski lessons?

Four hours of ski tuition will be provided each day by the Italian Ski School. Instructors are fully qualified and speak good English. **All skiing will be done in lessons and pupils will not be permitted to ski out of lessons at any time.**

Can my child learn to snowboard instead of ski?

We have the option this year to offer a snowboard group as long as we get enough interest to have a complete group with the same ability. The ski instructors are not able to offer mixed ski and snowboard groups due to the differing needs for instruction. Therefore, there is no guarantee that snowboarding will be possible as it is due to numbers and abilities of those interested. Please state your preference on the reply form and we will confirm the availability once numbers are received.

How much does it cost and what is included?

The total cost of the package is estimated to be **£1265** per person. This is only an estimate as due to the trip being so far into the future, the company cannot quote for the trip until the resort provides them with up-to-date costs for 2025. We are expecting a final price for the trip to be provided before the end of this academic year.

To secure a place onto this trip, you will need to pay a **holding deposit** for your place. This will be a single payment of **£100 by 31 March 2023**. If you wish to withdraw once the price is finalised, this deposit will be refunded. However, once the trip price is confirmed and you agree to continue, this becomes a non-refundable deposit due to this money being paid to the company at that time.

Tour Inclusions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of 2 executive coaches ○ Return short channel crossings ○ 5 nights' half board accommodation with breakfast and dinner each day at Hotel Nazionale ○ Hot lunches at piste site location ○ 25 hours of ski tuition spread over 5 days of skiing. ○ Full equipment hire including skis, boots, poles and helmet hire ○ A full area lift pass ○ The services of a ski courier to assist the group ○ Full winter sport insurance ○ Personalised hoodies ○ The trip will also provide an opportunity for a number of fun après ski activities such as curling, snow tubing, ice skating, discos and swimming. These will be confirmed at a later date.
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Will there be any additional costs?

- **Correct clothing is essential for skiing.** The main items needed will be a ski jacket and salopettes, warm layers, waterproof gloves, ski goggles and sunglasses. If you do not own these, they can be purchased reasonably cheaply from stores like TK Max and Decathlon during the winter months. End of season sales often appear around February of each year.





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- Not essential but we would advise beginners going to Snozone at Milton Keynes for at least a 2-hour group lesson before the trip. This will give students a good introduction to skiing and helps them to progress more safely and rapidly in Italy. **This is strongly advised, especially for beginners, so that all pupils can get the most out of their trip.**

What are the travel requirements now that we have left the EU?

Travel requirements:	<p>Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) previously European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) The GHIC does not replace the requirement for adequate travel insurance. The quickest way to apply for a free GHIC is online at www.ghic.org.uk, alternatively you may telephone 0300 330 1350 or pick up a form at your local Post Office.</p> <p>Further GHIC information can be found here; https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/519532/EHIC-Leaflet-Final-artwork6_11.01.2016.pdf You do not need to apply for a GHIC if you have a valid EHIC which has not expired.</p> <p>Passports need to have at least 6 months validity from the return date of travel to travel to most countries in Europe, though entry requirements vary by country. Please check with the Embassy or Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for the current requirements as these are subject to change.</p> <p>Non-EU passport holders may require a visa to enter Italy and you should check on the destination country's government website to see whether this is applicable for your child. <u>Please contact us immediately if your child does not hold an EU passport and would like to attend the trip.</u></p> <p>Passport applications: https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports</p>
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The school will be not liable, and no refund will be made, if your child is unable to travel because they do not have a valid passport on departure.

What to do now?

All your need to do now is to pay your **holding deposit of £100** to secure your child's place using the Wisepay system by **Friday 31 March 2023**. You will be able to select the option of snowboarding at this stage and let us know the ability of your child and their prior experience. This will help to allocate them into the correct ski school ability group.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and/or pupil premium entitlements, you are entitled to some financial assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact trips@bottishamvc.org in writing by **Friday 24 March 2023**, to ascertain what support is available.





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If the behaviour of a student becomes a cause for concern at any stage prior to the commencement of this trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the event.

We look forward to another successful and enjoyable ski trip. We are very proud at Bottisham of our students and look forward to taking them on this exciting adventure.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions, then do not hesitate to contact me using the email address htydeman@bottishamvc.org

Yours sincerely

Miss H Tydeman
Teacher of Science
Assistant Head of Year 7 Learning

