



Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow

18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Priory Academy are pleased to announce the launch of a joint geography/science 'visit of a life-time' to Iceland for our current Year 8, 9 and 10 students in August 2019. The visit will be run in conjunction with 'Discover the World', a leading school tours company, and we will have a fully qualified guide escorting us on each excursion. Iceland is a Nordic country situated between the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, split in two by the division of the American and Eurasian Plates – a continuation of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is a country full of incredible scenery and also amazing learning opportunities. The visit will involve a combination of geographical and scientific opportunities and will be open to all students currently in years 8-10. It will give students the opportunity to see first-hand, natural environments and landscapes that they will learn about in class for their GCSEs. Topics are cross-curricular supporting learning across the subjects; for example, tectonic plates and activity, geothermal energy and sustainable energy production. For the students that opt to take GCSE geography, it will also support their understanding of coastal landscapes and tourism.

On the visit, students will experience glacial environments, learning how they work, their formations and also how global warming is threatening them. They will visit the Secret Lagoon, geysers, waterfalls, volcanoes and geothermal hot springs. They will complete both the 'Golden Circle' and 'South Shore' days, walk through a lava tube and on the glacier before experiencing the unique harnessing of geothermally heated water to heat Icelandic houses. There is a busy schedule of excursions to challenge their thinking and to complete the necessary work that will be required whilst on the visit.

When is the visit?

Provisionally the visit will run between 27 – 30th August 2019. This is during the final week of the summer vacation. We have chosen to do the visit at this time to lessen the impact of students missing out on vital GCSE lessons and take advantage of a less busy period to secure interesting and exciting visits at more competitive prices. Full details of flight times will be released on booking. We will fly to Keflavik International airport from London Luton Airport with EasyJet and be transported around the island by coach.

Where will students stay?

The students will stay at quality, convenient hotels each night, on a route designed to ensure the least driving times. The hotel stay will be on a bed and breakfast basis providing students with breakfast each day, the cost of the visit also includes all other lunches and dinner which will be a mixture of hot and cold lunches and dinners in restaurants. It will not include breakfast or lunch on the first and last day so students will need to bring some money for the airport and may want to purchase extra drinks and snacks whilst in Iceland.

*continued overleaf/...*

What will students do?

A full itinerary will be confirmed nearer the time but it will include the following:

- \* South Shore Adventure Day - full day
- \* Golden Circle Tour - full day
- \* Secret Lagoon hot springs
- \* Glacier Trekking
- \* Lava Tubing.

How much will the visit cost?

Iceland is an expensive country, but we have researched lots of companies that provide school visits and the price we have received from 'Discover the World' is the more competitive. The price of the visit can be paid over a payment plan with School.

The costing cannot be finalised until the number of students on the visit and exact flight costs are confirmed. A rough estimate of £970 per student has been given by 'Discover the World'; this price includes all flights; transport; accommodation and food (as mentioned earlier); travel insurance; excursions and a visit hoodie.

A non-refundable deposit of £175 per student is required to secure your child's place on the visit. A minimum of 40 students are required for this visit to go ahead, if this number is not reached your deposit will be returned. Students must have a valid passport and EHIC for the time of travel, please ensure any passport renewals are completed in good time. Any students with non-British passports may need to apply for an additional visa to travel to Iceland; this will be the responsibility of the parents to check and organise if necessary.

Your child has seen a presentation regarding the visit and I would like to invite you to see the same on Wednesday 31st October 2018 at 5.00pm and also ask any questions you may have. The deadline for deposits will be Friday 2nd November 2018; numbers need to be confirmed with the agent in November. The balance will be required 10 weeks prior to departure.

If you would like to attend the information evening please complete the attached form and return it to the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M. Cronin  
Head of Geography

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**Reply Slip: For the attention of Mr Cronin – Iceland Visit, August 2019**

Student's Name: ..... Class: .....

**Please tick as appropriate:**

- \*I/we would like to attend the Iceland information evening on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018
- \*I/we would like \*my/our child to be considered for the visit and have read and understood the contents of the letter.