



I am Alison Walker, trip organiser and leader. I used to be a maths teacher (and Deputy Head) at Maiden Erlegh School but I now work for our central team, leading on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and trips across all nine of our schools.

We are 200 students and 25 staff from three schools.

Accompanying staff:

Trust	MES	MER	MECE
Alison Walker	Elysia Avery	Dan Hood	Andy Caldwell
Jon Peck (CEO)	Dan Pringle	Ashley Sparkes	Emma Bliss
Andy Johnson	Jez Flynn	Michaela Murphy	Sam Spicer
(Director of Education)	Les Dearman	Jeremy Proctor	
	Megan Longdon	Immie Martin	
	Annabel Borthwick		
	Steve Bryant		
	Ceri Burns		
	Vicky Grainger		
	Rachel Teale		
	Sam Pringle		
	Geraint Thomas		
	Summer Blake		
	Dan Jones		

### Ski clothing

- Jackets and trousers can be hired from [Snow Union](#).
- Other clothing and equipment can be ordered there too. Deadline 1st December.
- Do not order a helmet – these are provided in resort
- You won't need snow boots, just sensible footwear suitable for walking on/playing in the snow. Need to be snow proof.
- Everyone on the trip will have a trip hoody (which you have already paid for). It makes us a team and helps us identify students on the journey when we have stops. [ORDER YOUR HOODY HERE](#).

### Luggage

- Packing list is provided. Please follow it to the letter
- Stress to all of you especially those who haven't skied before – it's very casual.
- You will be wearing normal clothes for only a few hours each evening, don't need loads. Ski hotels are usually boiling, so big jumpers are unnecessary.
- At Easter it can be very warm so you might want to be in shorts and sliders
- Very limited space under the coach, do not bring giant bags or suitcases. **Medium sized squashy holdalls only please.**
- A multiplug extension cable can be very useful so that only one travel adapter is needed
- Please don't bring valuables or anything of sentimental value - it is much safer to leave them at home. I would strongly advise against tablets, iPads etc but if you choose to bring them it is entirely at your own risk.

### The average day

7.00	Wake up call
8.00	Breakfast (eat as much as you like buffet)
	15-minute Drive to ski slopes
Morning	3-hour ski lesson
	Lunch break (lunch provided). No free skiing.

Afternoon	2-hour ski lesson
	Back to the hotel. We will provide a drink and a bar of chocolate for everyone. Free time.
6.00	Dinner which is canteen style this year
7.30	Evening activity – more about that from Mrs W later
9.30	To bedrooms. Lights out soon after which sounds early but by day three students will be asking to go to bed.

Its tiring and hard work and you will have a great time but I's important to understand that it's a trip not a holiday.

### **Pocket Money**

- We don't provide food on the journey but aside from that the ski trip is essentially an all-inclusive trip.
- Students will want to buy drinks in the evening and often like to buy hot chocolate on the mountain.
- There will be some free time when students will be able to look round the shops. Souvenirs in ski resorts tend to be expensive and tacky. I would suggest you tell your children not to bring gifts back for you (or if they are very keen to, just to buy Italian biscuits/chocolate).
- Approx £20 in sterling and €50 in euros is enough.
- This can be in cash, on a payment card or on ApplePay or Google Pay.

### **Ski fitness**

- After February half term we will be having weekly fitness sessions
- They will be on Fridays straight after school for about an hour in your own school.
- These sessions are compulsory, and students' attendance is expected
- Useful for us to keep in contact with the group and for all of us to get to know each other.
- In these sessions we will also organise: Ski hoodies, coach seating plans and rooming plans.
- If you aren't there you don't get to choose who you room with or sit next to on the coach.

### **Dry Slope**

Beginner lessons at Aldershot aren't compulsory but experience has taught us that those who do have lessons make much faster progress on snow and enjoy the trip more.

I know that some parents have bought vouchers – just be mindful that this won't guarantee a spot on a Maiden Erlegh designated courses. If you haven't booked by 1 December, you might miss the Maiden Erlegh courses (but general courses will be available). [BOOK LESSONS HERE.](#)

### **Travel Arrangements**

- We'll leave on Saturday 05 April 2025 (the day after we break up for Easter)
- Provisional departure is 6pm from this school. All tbc much closer to the time.
- The journey will take up to 24 hours – not as bad as it sounds. First 6 hours passes quickly. After that we watch a couple of DVDs then sleep through the night. Worst part is last few hours when we just want to get there.
- Please bring some suitable DVDs if you have any.
- Students will need food and/or money for food for the journey – the first meal in resort will be on Sunday evening.
- We would also suggest they bring a pillow and a blanket. Also, a toothbrush and toothpaste in their hand luggage. We anticipate arriving back at school at some point on Sunday afternoon, so please be available to collect.

### **Behaviour**

- I will send you a behaviour agreement to read and sign closer to the trip.
- In doing so, students must acknowledge the behaviour that is expected of them and in addition parents agree to take responsibility for their children's behaviour and to pay for any damage

they might cause. We are miles and miles up a mountain – can't just get a carpenter or decorator to pop round and this can prove costly.

- We rarely have behavioural problems on the trip, but in the worst-case scenario, you need to know that we would send a student home, and it would be at your expense. Happily, it's never happened yet on a ski trip and long may it continue.
- Your attention is drawn to a commitment you made when accepting a place on the trip: *I accept that the school reserves the right to withdraw a place on the trip for students who are persistently late to school or lessons, do not follow our uniform or behaviour policies or bring the school into disrepute. In this event, payments are non-returnable unless a replacement can be found.*

### **Insurance**

We are fully insured throughout the trip by the DfE.

Parents and students will all have my phone number. I am available 24/7.

### **Passports and EHIC**

- In the fortnight or so prior to the trip we will collect in passports and EHIC/GHIC.
- Passports need to have 3 months left on them on the date of return.
- We will keep the passport throughout the trip, handing them back on the return leg.
- Students will be given their EHIC/GHIC to keep in their jacket pocket for the duration of the trip.
- The EHIC is a vital part of your kit – it guarantees free emergency treatment should you need it. Without an EHIC, treatment will be delayed and will be charged for.

### **TRAVIS**

You will be sent a link by email in the next couple of days from the tour operator.

To complete this you will need to have your child's passport in front of you and to know your child's height (cm) and weight (kg) as well as the circumference of their head (cm). Don't spend time worrying about ski ability – I will allocate the groups closer to the trip.

### **Administration**

A plea. I spend hours and hours and hours and hours on this trip. We are a party of 225 people. When you don't fill in your form or miss a deadline that's more work for me that I shouldn't have to do. I do all of this in addition to the day job without ANY admin support. All I ask of you is to meet deadlines.

In every message I include the ski email address. Please send queries, questions, and concerns directly to that address and not to the school office.