**RESILIENCE · RESPECT · INTEGRITY · COMMUNITY**
The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN
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Tel: 01277 500990
Email: communications@theongaracademy.org
Website: www.theongaracademy.org
Headteacher: Mr. J. Sands
Deputy Headteacher: Ms. R. Gilbert

18 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**Geography & Science Trip to Iceland, Thursday 9th October – Sunday 12th October**

I would like to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to take part in an exciting new trip to Iceland. This trip is available to Year 10 students who are currently studying Geography for GCSE and students who are taking triple Science. This may well be opened to additional students if we require a minimum number for the trip to take place. This trip aims to broaden students' cultural awareness as well as consolidating their knowledge of Geographical and Scientific concepts that they study as part of their course. We will be working with WST Travel Group who specialise in educational trips abroad and are a recognised operator by Essex LEA. This is an exciting opportunity for students who have displayed a particular interest in their courses.

***Travel to Iceland***

We will travel to Iceland by plane from Stansted airport. We are likely to leave school very early on the first day of the trip to arrive in Reykjavík later that day and to take full advantage of time spent there. Transport around Iceland, from the airport to the accommodation and to the sites we visit will be by coach.

***Costs and information***

The cost of the trip should be approximately **£1000** per student, and this includes all travel (including flights, hold baggage, and travel in Iceland), full board accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals, all visits and excursions, insurance, contingency and administration costs. Depending on numbers, the final cost may hopefully be lower than this. We will need a minimum of 20 students to apply for the trip for it to take place.

During our time in Iceland, we will have full use of an official tour guide. We will visit the 'Secret Lagoon' where students will be able to swim and we will see the spectacular sites of the 'Golden Circle', Thingvellir National Park, Geysir Geothermal Area, Gullfoss Waterfall and Kerid Crater.

Students will need valid UK passports and Global Health Insurance Cards. The cost of the trip does not allow for visas or passport applications or any additional costs that may be incurred due to Brexit. All passports must be valid for at least 3 months **after** the return date. Any students with a passport issued from a country outside of the UK or EU may need a visa to travel, and therefore it is important you contact me to inform me if this is the case.

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***Accommodation and meals***

We will be staying in a youth hostel located outside Reykjavík. Students will be required to share rooms, and these will be single sex rooms. Our package with the accommodation is full board (breakfast, lunch, and evening meal). Students may wish to bring some spending money to purchase drinks, snacks, and any souvenirs. Students may wish to be in possession of a debit card which can be used abroad to cover their spending money.

Student wellbeing and safety is of paramount importance, and we need to ensure that students will act sensibly in Iceland. Therefore, if a student has a significantly high number of behaviour points and/or is engaged in poor and negative behaviours in their Geography and Science lessons, we reserve the right to refuse them a place on this trip.

At this stage, this letter is purely to gain what level of interest there may be. If your son/daughter is interested in participating in this trip, please click this link and complete the online form. **I would appreciate it if all responses were completed by Thursday 9th January.**

Students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may be entitled to some financial support to meet part of the payment of the trip and should contact myself should they require any financial assistance which will naturally be kept in the strictest of confidence.

Once final numbers are confirmed, a deposit of £300 per student will be requested on Parent Pay and I ask that this deposit is paid by Friday 24th January. Once deposits have been paid, I will then release further information regarding future instalments, a parent/carer meeting and the full itinerary will be provided. The whole trip must be paid for by the end of June 2025. I do hope that your son/daughter will be able to take part in this exciting opportunity.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address below.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Bourton
Head of MFL Faculty
The Ongar Academy
dbourton@theongaracademy.org