



20th October 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Overseas School Trips

Whilst we have seen things almost return to normal in school since the start of the new academic year, we have continued to monitor the number of positive Covid cases in school, within the Wychavon and wider community, and also global trends. Unfortunately, as you will be aware from the media, the number of positive test results in the UK have been rising recently and the reintroduction of some protective measures and Covid restrictions cannot be ruled out.

As a result of this uncertainty, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the Sixth Form USA trip that had been planned for the February 2022 half-term break. This will now take place in February 2023. Whilst foreign travel is allowed, should an outbreak of Covid occur within the party resulting in the need for self-isolation abroad, it may be that insurance would not cover this cost. More importantly, we cannot guarantee that enough contingency of staff cover would be able to support both the healthy and any self-isolating students. There also is the risk that staff could contract Covid, resulting in them having to self-isolate and being unable to fulfil their role in supporting the trip and keeping students safe. Mrs Webb will be contacting the parents of the students affected after the half-term break, to advise on the process that will be followed for refunding any monies that have already been paid.

Unfortunately, we need to make these decisions now even though the trips may not be happening for a few months. This is because we need to plan staff cover now as well as ensuring that appropriate insurance and risk assurance measures are fully in place to protect the health and safety of all concerned. The earliest planned overseas visits organized by the school will now be the USA trip in February 2023 and the ski trip, which is due to take place at the same time.

World Challenge is due to depart in Summer 2022, but this trip is contracted between parents and World Challenge directly. We are waiting for guidance from World Challenge and we will inform you as soon as we have any further information.

A programme of educational trips within the UK is being planned and the relevant students will receive information about these as and when they happen.

I know that the families of those students affected by this decision will share our disappointment, but I am sure that you will understand that taking appropriate measures to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of every student and staff member involved in a school trip - particularly when that trip is overseas - must be the school's absolute priority.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Evans'.

Dr A Evans
Headteacher

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