



RED HOUSE
SCHOOL

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8 October 2020

Dear Parents

Ski Trip: December 2020

It is with regret that I announce the cancellation of our annual ski trip.

When Mr Wilkinson last wrote to you, he highlighted the insurance cover which was in place and that the tour company would find an alternative destination should France remain on the FCO list of countries to which you should not travel. After further conversations with the company, they have stated that if France is taken off the list (meaning you can travel there) but the DfE guidance remains not to go on overnight excursions, we would not be covered. The school would be left in the invidious position of going against DfE advice or forfeiting the full cost of the ski trip. We have been in dialogue with the tour company numerous times to challenge their position but they will not give way.

We are also concerned about alternative destinations which might be suggested by the tour company. For example, one such country is Italy and you may have seen in the press recently the Italian government's refusal to allow three UK citizens to leave until they have tested negative twice for COVID-19; they have been in quarantine for two months. This is not a risk we feel we should take with our pupils or members of staff.

Financially, we have only currently paid the deposit of £200 per pupil to the tour company (you paid this in February last year). They are insisting on keeping £110 of this as a non-refundable deposit (to cover flights which they have already booked they say). Whilst we have challenged their decision, they are again insisting this is in their terms and conditions.

Our intention is to return to you all the monies you have paid. However, as you will be aware, Red House relies purely on fee income and the cost of cancellation is not insignificant to the school. If you would like to help us cover the cost of the cancellation, and are happy to allow us to keep part of the deposit to cover the costs incurred, please email Mrs Tomlinson to this effect: andrea.tomlinson@redhouseschool.co.uk.

For administrative ease, our intention is to credit any refund to your school account. If you would prefer to receive these funds in an alternative way, please also contact Mrs Tomlinson before 20 November 2020.

We have not told the pupils yet about the cancellation given the spread of ages and our inability to talk to them together. Please do let them know we have thought this matter through carefully, considering the points above and feel this is the right thing to do.

With best wishes

Ken James
Headmaster