



9 May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **School Ski Trip Easter 2024 to Serre Chevalier, France**

Following our recent successful ski trip to Italy, we are very pleased to be able to offer your daughter/son/ward the opportunity to take part in our residential ski trip to Serre Chevalier in France next Easter.

This trip will enable our pupils to develop their independence, enjoy sport in the outdoors, experience a different culture and explore the opportunity to speak another language. It can also give a major boost to confidence and self-esteem.

The trip is open to all pupils from the **current Prep 4 to the current Year 10**. Confirmed new pupils for September 2023 are also welcome. On our trip there will be a ratio of at least one Royal School teacher to every ten children, enabling us to ski with your child or stay with them if they are unwell (teachers will be selected once pupil numbers have been confirmed).

This trip will take place from **23-30 March 2024** and the cost will be approximately £1400; this is based on 30 pupils and 4 adults, and is an all-inclusive price which includes everything from flights and transfers, to food, accommodation, ski hire, lift passes, and lessons.

**Trip Leader:** Mr Guest ([dguest@royal.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dguest@royal.surrey.sch.uk)). Other adults will be selected once numbers are confirmed.

We will fly from one of the London airports to Turin or Grenoble - flight details will be confirmed nearer the time.

We will be organising the trip through the tour operator Equity, who will also organise an evening entertainment programme. The booking is protected under ATOL and the company is a full member of the School Travel Forum and ABTA. In addition, Equity holds the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

### **About Serre Chevalier**

Serre Chevalier encompasses over a dozen villages and hamlets dotted along the Guisane Valley. Offering over 250kms of skiable piste accessed by 62 ski lifts at a top altitude of 2830m, anyone from beginners to experts will appreciate the vast array of terrain set amongst the pine-pitted scenery. Serre Chevalier remains one of Europe's biggest resorts and a firm favourite with schools.

The Serre Chevalier ski area extends west from Briançon and stretches across six peaks to Monêtier-les-Bains. The middle twin villages of Chantemerle and Villeneuve are the principal resort bases and share the bulk of the core ski area. The whole domain has a great range of pistes for all abilities, with many tree-



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sheltered slopes, and the linear layout invites touring from one end to the other, giving a satisfying feeling of big-mileage travel.



The core Grand Serre area above Villeneuve and Chantemerle is served by a number of gondola lifts from various points in those two villages plus a cable car from Chantemerle. Again, the lower slopes are forested, traversed by a few gentle yet narrow trails, and sliced through by a couple of epic long black runs. The uppermost slopes are within open bowls, crisscrossed with a good network of nice intermediate runs, although most of the highest peaks are served only by drag lifts.

With wondrously wide nursery slopes and excellent ski schools, Serre Chevalier offers groups the perfect introduction to winter sports within a truly picturesque location. With two swooping bowls in Villeneuve and Chantemerle, there are loads of chances to practise without getting lost. As you progress and explore the mountainside, you'll find some excellent intermediates above the tree line. For the more advanced skiers, Chantemerle offers Olympic black runs while Monétier-Les-Bains also offers testing terrain.

If your child is a beginner, they will be able to learn the basics at village level before heading further up the mountain, moving onto sweeping blues and exciting paths twisting through trees. Confident intermediates and advanced skiers will improve their ski technique on a range of blue, red and black runs.







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### **Accommodation - Auberge De Jeunesse Hi Serre-Chevalier**

Recently renovated, the Serre Chevalier Youth Hostel is located in the village of Le Bez, a typical mountain hamlet, close to the town of Villeneuve in the heart of the Serre Chevalier valley.

Pupils will enjoy the magnificent view of the mountains from their bedrooms, just 300m from the ski school. There are 15 rooms ranging from 2, 4, 6 and 8 beds. The hostel has a cosy bar and lounge area which can be used for evening activities in-house.





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**Insurance:** a comprehensive travel insurance policy is arranged through Equity.

**Please note:** *Skiing is a potentially dangerous activity and whilst everything in our power will be done to look after your child, we cannot guarantee they will not be injured. In applying for a place on this trip, you accept this fact.*

Since our arrangements are made long in advance of the travel date, Equity do also have to reserve the right to pass on to their customer increases in the price of air travel arising from unforeseen changes to government taxes, aircraft fuel, overflying charges, airport charges and increases in scheduled air fares.

In-house evening activities (including a disco, karaoke, DVDs and quizzes) are included in the price. There are optional activities outside the hotel, such as swimming, bowling and a pizza night, which have an additional cost and can either be paid for in resort or before we travel.

Essential clothing for the ski trip will include gloves, goggles, warm jacket, salopettes/ski trousers and thick socks. We will also look at organising dry ski lessons for beginners nearer the time so that the children are familiar with skis and boots and have some confidence that they will be able to stop! The cost of two lessons is likely to be around £60 for intermediate skiers and £80 for beginners.

Once we know how many pupils have signed up, we can confirm a more accurate cost but expect a total cost in the region of **£1400**. Please note that following the initial non-refundable deposit of £100, we must pay the next non-refundable deposit of £200 to Equity 8 weeks later and a third non-refundable deposit of £200 a further 4 weeks later. The final balance would be due at the end of the autumn term 2024; you could therefore pay in **monthly instalments of around £200** if you wish, to help spread the cost. More detailed costings will be issued following the closing date.

If you would like your daughter/son/ward to take part in this trip, please [complete this form](https://forms.office.com/e/LSMxxtihMi) (<https://forms.office.com/e/LSMxxtihMi>). **The closing date for applications is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

I have recorded a presentation about the trip which you can watch here: <https://youtu.be/-BizEfune1k>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the trip.

Kind regards

David Guest (Prep 5 teacher)  
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