



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

September 2024

Ski Tour – 15th February – 21st February 2026 – Grandvalira, Andorra – Y7 to Y12

Dear parents

I am pleased to announce details of the next ski tour travelling between the 15th and 21st of February 2026, open to students from Y7 to Y12. This is a great time to go skiing in Europe and is therefore very popular, we are launching this trip early to ensure our students have the best deal we can find. We will be flying by air to the resort of Grandvalira, Andorra. Grandvalira sits right on Andorra's border with France, in the spectacular Pyrenees. Grandvalira is the biggest ski area in the Pyrenees, with over 210km of piste spread across a number of resorts.

The school have chosen Halsbury to lead our trip. They are an experienced school ski trip operator and are protected by both ABTA and ATOL registrations. They are also part of the School Travel Forum and Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation schemes.

The cost of the trip is £1650. This includes the following:

- Full board accommodation in the hotel and hot lunches on the slopes.
- Equipment hire to include skis, boots, helmet and poles.
- Ski lift passes and instruction for the 5 days of skiing/5 h per day.
- Return travel by air from the UK and all coach transfers/travel from Birmingham Airport.
- In resort representative and 24 hour care from Halsbury.
- Comprehensive medical insurance provided by the school.

Not included in the price:

- Individual clothing. A set of ski clothing would cost around £150.
- Individual 5 or 10 year UK passport.
- Spending money, £100-150 of Euros for snacks and shopping.
- Snowdome/dry slope training in the UK around £120 (compulsory for absolute beginners). The school organises a separate trip to the snowdome run by Mr Finch.

We appreciate that the cost of this trip is high. We have worked very hard to keep costs down. The payment plan is shown below. Students eligible for Pupil Premium may receive funding for £100 of the cost of this trip which would be credited to the second payment. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our financial assistance form is available on the [school website](#). The price of the trip is fixed save for large fluctuations in travel costs due to large fuel surcharges, currency exchanges and the like outside of our control. Parents must note that all payments

are non-refundable. We also reserve the right to alter parts of the trip as necessary (for example, the destination due to snow conditions). Any changes would be equal to or better than that detailed above.

Parents can sign up their children for the trip via Parent Mail. Places for all year groups will appear on Parents Mail on Saturday the 5th of October. A small number of places are reserved for new joiners to the 6th form, who only have one opportunity to go on a ski trip with QM. Whilst the final deadline for the deposit is the 25th of October, this trip usually sells out much earlier.

Payment schedule:

- On parent mail from the 5th of October: First payment and trip deposit of £250
- 1st November 2024: Payment of £250
- 1st February 2025: Payment of £250
- 1st April 2025: Payment of £250
- 1st June 2025: Payment of £250
- 1st September 2025: Payment of £400

Please note that soon after monies come into school payments are made to secure flights and hotels in Europe, which require payment up front. Payments can be made in smaller amounts (i.e. monthly) before the deadlines shown above but not later.

For further information about this trip, please contact Mr Rendu by **email**:

m.rendu@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Richard Langton
Headmaster

Mr M Rendu
Head of Science