



## HILL HOUSE SCHOOL

GG/vm

18 October 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 10-U6 Geography Adventure to Iceland – October 2020**

We are proposing an exciting new academic field trip opportunity to Iceland in October 2020 for pupils and students who will be studying Geography at Hill House in Year 10 – U6 in the academic year 2020-2021. The adventure will be 5 days/4 nights and the aim is to extend our learning of tectonic processes, consider the impact they have in the creation of distinctive landscapes and appreciate the influence of tectonics and glacial processes on human activity. To this end we will visit sites of geothermal activity, volcanic craters, tectonic plate margins and glacial retreat. We will be accompanied during the trip by an expert tour guide in Iceland, allowing us to maximise the local knowledge of the area to gain a fuller understanding of the tectonic activity in the country.

We will be using Kipling Tours who have run trips to Iceland for many years and are members of the Travel Trust Association and are ATOL protected. We will travel by plane and have provisionally booked to travel in the first week of the half term (between the dates of 24 October – 30 October 2020). We are planning to stay in two different accommodation providers to minimise travel and experience the wilderness that is so abundant in Iceland. We will provisionally spend three nights in the rural setting of the Hellisholar log cabins where we will hopefully be able to witness the spectacular Northern Lights and one night at Hotel Cabin in the capital Reykjavik.

The proposed adventure will include visits to:

- **Reykjanes Peninsular** - where we will be able to see (and smell!) geothermal activity including hot springs, mud pools and fumaroles. We will also visit the 'Bridge Between Two Continents' where we will stand across the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.
- **Thingvellir National Park** – here we will also stand between the Eurasian and North American plates as the two move apart. This is also a key location in Iceland's political history being home to the world's oldest parliament.
- **Blue Lagoon** - the opportunity to swim in the famous lagoon. The water is heated from nearby geothermal sources and through tectonic activity it is rich in minerals.
- **Strokkur** – one of Iceland's most famous geysers erupting every five minutes.
- **Glacier walking** – using crampons and ice axes we will hike onto the Solheimajokull glacier and explore the blue ice tunnels and crevasses in the glacier. This glacier also sits on top of volcanic activity so we will see evidence of the volcanic ash in the ice.
- **Gulfoss/Seljalandsfoss/Skogafoss** – an opportunity to see Iceland's three most famous waterfalls and walk behind the back of one.

- **Leidarendi Lava Tube** – where we will descend into a cave formed by past lava flows over 1000 years ago and see the minerals and colours in the walls created by the lava flowing through up to the earth's surface.
- **LAVA Volcano and Earthquake Centre** – where we will take part in the interactive displays to learn about the impacts of previous tectonic activity on the island.
- **Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station** – a tour around a working geothermal power station, seeing how this energy provides 70% of Iceland's electricity.
- **South Coast** – Here we will visit black lava beaches and the basaltic lava stacks and see how the processes of erosion have carved the beautiful caves, arches and stacks of Iceland's South Shore.
- **Reykjavik** – we will visit and stay in the capital city, affording us time to visit the famous landmarks of the world's northernmost capital city.

The provisional cost of the adventure is £1220 and includes flights, all other transport, accommodation, food in Iceland, the use of a dedicated guide and participation in all of the activities outlined above. The dates, times and costs are provisional at the moment depending on pupil numbers and because flight schedules for Iceland in October 2020 are yet to be released. When these have been confirmed, I will write advising of a more definitive cost.

Due to the nature of the accommodation we are staying in, places on the adventure are limited and as it has an academic focus, pupils and students on the trip must be on either the GCSE or A level geography course in October 2020.

If you wish for your son/daughter to participate/ please complete the electronic reply slip and send an initial deposit of £300 by BACS (please use your child's name and 'Iceland 2020' as a reference) by Friday 15 November 2019.

Account number 24022448

Sort Code 05-04-14

We believe this adventure will provide a superb opportunity for your son/daughter to take part in geographical fieldwork in another country. It will allow them to see the processes and theories learnt about in the classroom first-hand and witness the effects of the natural world on the physical and human environments. If you would like further information or would like to discuss any of the above prior to making a decision please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Green  
Head of Geography