



Great Marlow School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Snowsports Trip 2026

It is with great excitement that Great Marlow School announces that the Snowsports Trip will run during the Easter Holidays of 2026, to Salzburger Sportwelt, Austria. The trip will be available to those currently in Year 8 and offers a fantastic opportunity.

“Situated 55km South of Salzburg, the Salzburger Sportwelt Region, one of Austria’s largest interconnected ski areas, offers wonderful winter sports terrain suitable for all skill levels. With just one ski pass you can ski in the whole of the Salzburg Sportwelt, the Schladming-Dachstein area, the Grossarl valley, Gastein and the Hochkönig region. That is over 350km of well-prepared ski pistes. Tailored very much towards school groups, most of our accommodation is based near the massive Salzburger Sportwelt – the heart of the Ski Amadé.”

The group will depart from school on Friday 27th March 2026 and will return six days later on Thursday 2nd April. The cost of the trip will be no more than £1800.00 per person; the reason I cannot be specific is due to fluctuating flight costs. This will include the return flights from the UK to Europe, transfers to and from the airport in the resort and in the UK, full board accommodation, five six-hour sessions of ski instruction, hot lunches, helmet and equipment hire, appropriate insurances and fully supervised evening entertainment. Students will also receive a ‘hoodie’ sweatshirt to wear for travelling and group activities. Regardless of ability, tuition will be tailored to suit the needs of every student, to ensure everyone progresses and makes the most of this fantastic opportunity. We aim for the trip to be inclusive for all students, regardless of need. Provision for disabilities will be looked at on an individual basis.

Whilst this trip may appear expensive, we feel it represents extremely good value because of the skiing location; the high quality of the tuition, the attention to safety employed by the company, the quality food the hotel provides, and the helpfulness of the staff representatives. As important as these factors are, the ‘enjoyment factor’ is arguably unrivalled. We have, therefore, planned to allow for the cost to be spread, with an initial deposit of £200.00, followed by instalment payments every month. The payment plan must be strictly adhered to, as this will enable us to comply with the tour company’s payment schedule and also book tuition for your child. Financial assistance could be available to support any Pupil Premium students to participate in the trip; if you would like to be considered for financial assistance, please contact Mrs Gifford, our Student Support Officer (Pupil Premium) on agifford@gms.bucks.sch.uk.

All deposits will be returned if the trip is cancelled. No deposits will be paid to the tour company until the tour is confirmed. However, once deposits have been paid, they will be non-refundable unless covered by insurance. Once the booking is confirmed, if you decide to withdraw your son/daughter from the trip and/or default on any payments, you may not receive a refund of any monies already paid to the tour company. You may also be required to pay any surcharges imposed by the tour company. All withdrawal notices must be put in writing with a request for confirmation of receipt.

If you would like your child to participate, please complete this Expression of Interest by Tuesday September 2nd.
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There are only 48 spaces available. Should the trip be oversubscribed, places will be allocated using a random selection process. You will hear whether your child has been successful in gaining a place in the first week back after the summer holiday. **If they are successful, you will need to pay a £200 deposit promptly at that point to secure their place.** Information about how to do that and the payment plan will follow later, but **if the deposit deadline is missed, the place will automatically be offered to another student.**

Students must have a current passport and Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Please ensure these documents are valid for at least six months after the return date. If your child has a non-EU passport, please consult the Austrian Embassy to verify whether they will need a visa to enter Austria.

Here at Great Marlow School, we take student welfare very seriously. For the safety of all students and staff, we will have a ratio of 1:8, which will include a member of the leadership team. When students are allowed any unsupervised time, for example in the local town, they will be expected to stay in groups of at least 3; they will be given a school mobile number and will know how and where to get hold of a member of staff. The school reserves the right to decline the applications of students who may be unable to comply with the school's Code of Conduct. Any student who gives cause for concern regarding their behaviour, prior to our departure date, may be withdrawn from the trip. In such cases, the deposit is non-refundable, as are any monies already paid to the tour operator: the insurance does not cover such eventualities. Whilst on the trip, all students must follow the school's Code of Conduct; students who fail to do this will be dealt with on the trip, and there may be further sanctions on return. In extreme cases, parents or carers may be asked to make their own arrangements to collect their son/daughter from Austria at their own expense.

Prior to departure, there will be a compulsory meeting at school for parents, carers and students. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place around December 2025 / January 2026; details will be confirmed nearer the time.

All levels of ability will be catered for from all age groups, whether your child is an accomplished skier or a complete beginner. This is a marvellous opportunity for your child to experience something new and exciting, to develop interpersonal skills, travel to a completely different environment, and, most importantly, have fun!

At all times, the group will have contact with an English-speaking tour representative.

As someone with experience of residential trips, I know the students will really enjoy both the skiing and evening entertainments on offer.

Should you have any concerns regarding this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me on the usual school telephone number.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Brassington
Teacher of Science