

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year European Trips – Spring 2021

It is hard to believe that May has come around again so quickly and that our 1st Years will progress into 2nd Year in a few short months.

Traditionally students would have signed up to one of our 2nd Year European trip options in March of 1st Year.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions we delayed any decision around potential 2nd Year trips abroad to see how restrictions might be eased. In light of the positive signs and ongoing improvements as restrictions are lifted and the vaccination programme advances, we are cautiously hopeful that we may be in a position to organise our 2nd Year European trips for Spring 2022.

Many 1st Years have been asking about the 2nd Year trips in recent weeks. While we will not be in a position to make a final and definitive decision until late August, we would like to get an indication of potential numbers in order to determine how feasible these trips would be for students and parents.

The 2nd Year European trips usually take place in early February. Students can choose between two trips, Skiing or a city-break to Paris.

Below are estimated prices and approximate payment schedules for both our Ski trip and our Paris trip. These are based on preliminary quotes and our experience from previous years.

### Cost

We envisage that the maximum cost will be as follows.

- Ski Trip (4-5 days) - €900 per student (*inc equipment hire, lessons, flights, buses, accommodation, and meals.*)
- Paris Trip (2-3 days) - €650 per student (*inc Euro-Disney, Stade de France, all tours/events, flights, buses, accommodation, breakfast x2, lunch x1 and dinner X3.*)

If next year's 2nd Year European trips do proceed, we would work closely with the tour companies to give parents/students as much time as possible to complete payment but beginning to save early is always advised. Students themselves should be encouraged to save pocket money and/or birthday/Christmas gifts toward the cost of the trip.

### Payment Timeframes

It is not possible to give an exact payment schedule until we confirm for definite that COVID restrictions and public health advice will allow the trips to take place. However, estimates of the instalment timeframes, based on our previous experience, are on p.2

P.T.O. →

Principal – Kerry Harkin

Deputy Principal – Sean Costelloe



## Ski Trip - €900

- 1st payment - €200 – Fully Refundable - Payable via school app in 3 instalments (June – August)
- 2nd payment of €150 - Friday 10th of September 2021 – Non refundable
- 3rd payment of €150 - Friday 24th of September 2021 – Non refundable
- 4th payment of €150 - Friday 8th of October 2021– Non refundable
- 5th payment of €150 - Monday 22nd of October 2021– Non refundable
- 6th and final payment of €100 - Friday 20th of November 2021 – Non refundable

## Paris Trip - €650

- 1st payment - €200 – Fully Refundable - Payable via school app in 3 instalments (June – August)
- 2nd payment of €150 - Friday 10th of September 2021 – Non refundable
- 3rd payment of €150 - Friday 24th of September 2021 – Non refundable
- 5th payment of €100 - Monday 22nd of October 2021– Non refundable
- 6th and final payment of €50 - Friday 20th of November 2021 – Non refundable

You will notice that the 1<sup>st</sup> payment for both trips (€200) is initially fully refundable. This payment is intended simply to help parents/students begin saving for the trip. ***It does not have to be paid in full until the end of August 2021***, by which time we will have a better indication of the COVID and public health implications for European travel next spring.

This 1<sup>st</sup> payment can be paid via the school app in 3 equal instalments between June and August. If the tour does not go ahead or if a student changes their mind at the start of September this payment will be refunded in full. Once the trips are confirmed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment is made at the start of September this amount is no longer refundable. Any subsequent payments will also be non-refundable.

## Next Steps

There is no action required for now. We simply wish to inform you of the likely costs and payment schedule should these trips go ahead.

Next week we will look for expressions of interests. If numbers indicate that the trips are feasible, we will then open the refundable initial payment option (€200) on our school app for those who wish to begin staggering payments. Please remember this will not be compulsory, and parents can defer this initial payment until the end of August and pay in one-lump sum of €200 if they wish.

## Public Health Advice

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year European trips will only proceed if the public health advice for Ireland and Europe allow. All communications in relation to these trips between now and late August are premised on public health advice allowing such travel next spring. A definitive decision will be made once further information on travel is available towards the end of August or early September.

***\* Please note that a student's participation on the 2nd Year European trip is subject to their positive behaviour in school and their adherence to our school's Code of Behaviour as detailed on p.1 of our School Trips Policy ([www.presmilltown.ie](http://www.presmilltown.ie))***