

6 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Iceland Geography Trip: Wednesday 14 January – Saturday 17 January 2026**

I am delighted to be writing to you regarding the Geography trip to Iceland for GCSE and A Level Geography students, that will take place in January 2026.

Iceland truly is “the land of fire and ice” with its volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers set alongside its ice caps, glaciers, and sea ice. As the tour is not an integral assessed part of the GCSE course, participation is entirely optional.

The dates booked are **Wednesday 14 January – Saturday 17 January 2026**. The visit will be organised by Rayburn Tours, a highly regarded company in the schools travel business which comes with strong recommendation; they are bonded by ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents), AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators), and the Civil Aviation Authority under the ATOL scheme.

The visit is designed to give students an opportunity to enrich and reinforce their geographical knowledge and understanding, including case study information that can be used in exams. There is a full programme of unique educational visits and experiences, with the opportunity for relaxation in the evenings. A brief overview of the itinerary can be found below with a more detailed programme will be provided in due course.

Day 1	Morning flight from the UK to Keflavik. Visits along the Reykjanes Peninsular. Check in at Hotel Ork.
Day 2	Golden Circle Day including a visit to Thingvellir National Park, Geysir Geothermal area and Gullfoss waterfall. Visit a commercial greenhouse powered by geothermal energy, sample their produce including tomato soup.
Day 3	South Coast Day – visiting the impressive Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss falls and a walk to view the snout of the Solheimajokull. Travel to the southern coast to view the Dryholaeey coastal features and Reynisjara black sand beach and basalt columns, and visit the interactive LAVA centre.
Day 4	Visit the Secret Lagoon and Hellisheldi Power Station. Evening flight from Keflavik to the UK.

<https://www.rayburntours.com/educational-trips/trips/school-geography-trips-to-iceland/>

The **cost of running the trip will be £1050 per student**. This cost includes all transport within the UK and Iceland, flights, tour guide, hotel accommodation, three meals a day and all activities mentioned in the itinerary above. We do not want any student to be excluded from the trip due to

## A Church of England Academy

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financial reasons. If your child receives free school meals or you wish to discuss an alternative payment schedule please contact Mr Currier [bcurrier@theacademy.me](mailto:bcurrier@theacademy.me) or Ms Proud [vproud@theacademy.me](mailto:vproud@theacademy.me) by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

If you would like the opportunity for your child to be part of the trip, please complete the attached reply slip and return to Mrs Smyth and make the first payment installment of £125 through ParentPay by **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**.

Please note the payment schedule is as follows:

Payment Date	Payment Amount
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2025	£125
30 <sup>th</sup> April	£125
30 <sup>th</sup> June	£200
30 <sup>th</sup> July	£200
30 <sup>th</sup> August	£200
30 <sup>th</sup> September	£200

School trips are a privilege and the success of these trips is very much dependent upon the continuing excellent behaviour of our students. As a result, we reserve the right to refuse a student a place on a trip, or to withdraw a student at any time from a trip, as a result of poor behaviour. This will result in forfeiting any payments made towards the trip.

Please note that students will need to hold a valid passport which allows travel to Iceland (within the Schengen Area) and is valid for at least 3 months after our return date.

Finally, there will be an information evening held for parents and students in autumn 2025 but if you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [asmith@theacademy.me](mailto:asmith@theacademy.me)

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs A Smyth**  
Curriculum Leader of Geography

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# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

Dear Mrs Smyth,

I would like a place for my child on the trip to Iceland in January 2026.

I will ensure that the deposit of £125 will be paid by 2 March 2025 and I understand that if my child secures a place on the trip, this cannot be refunded.

I will ensure all other payments are met, in line with the payment schedule above, and will ensure my child has a valid passport for this trip.

**Please fill in the following details in capital letters, ensuring there are no errors as these details will be forwarded to the travel company.**

Child's Full Name: .....

Child's Date of Birth:.....

Signed:.....(Parent/Carer)

Date .....

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