

Our ref: JRU/RKR

9 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Ski Trip 2027 – Updated Destination and Confirmed Dates

I am writing to share an important and exciting update regarding our Ski Trip 2027.

Following further discussions with our tour operator, we have secured what we believe to be a significantly enhanced experience for our students. The trip will now take place in **Bansko, Bulgaria**, with the trip now confirmed to **depart on the afternoon of Tuesday 23 March 2027 or early Wednesday 24 March 2027**. After careful consideration, this change provides several key advantages which will directly benefit students' skiing progress, comfort and overall experience. The trip is **6 nights / 7 days**.

One of the limitations of the original destination was that availability fell during the Easter half term period, meaning very busy slopes and significant lift queues. By contrast, our new mid-week departure to Bansko means:

- The first part of the trip will take place outside peak changeover days
- Quieter ski lifts during the crucial early lessons
- Less time queueing and more time skiing
- Faster development of skills and confidence on the snow

Increased Ski Time

Students will benefit enormously from maximising their time on the mountain, particularly in those all-important first two days of instruction. Additionally, students will now receive **23 hours of skiing with qualified instructors**, structured as:

- 4 hours on Day 1
- 5 hours on Days 2, 3 and 4
- 4 hours on Day 5

This extended instruction time supports accelerated progress and ensures all ability levels — from complete beginners to more experienced skiers — are appropriately challenged.

Accommodation – Casa Karina Hotel (4★)

We are delighted to confirm that students will stay at the **Casa Karina Hotel (4★)**, located just 200 metres from the main gondola — effectively offering a ski-in, ski-out style experience and significantly reducing daily transport time.

The hotel offers:

- Spacious rooms and apartments suitable for school groups
- Full board catering with hearty buffet breakfasts and dinners
- Secure ski storage facilities
- 24-hour reception and experienced, group-friendly staff
- Heated indoor pool with mountain views



- Supervised leisure spaces for students
- Games facilities including billiards and electronic games
- Landscaped courtyard area

Casa Karina has a strong track record of hosting youth groups and provides a safe, comfortable and well-organised base for our visit.

Full Evening Programme Included

A varied après-ski programme will be included, with potential activities such as: Sledging; Ice skating; Bowling; On-site games room activities; Karaoke evening; and Awards presentation evening. These structured evening activities are an important part of the trip, promoting teamwork, independence and lasting memories beyond the slopes.

Why This Change Benefits Students

In summary, the move to Bansko provides:

- Quieter slopes during the critical early days
- Increased ski instruction time
- A higher quality hotel experience
- Short walking distance to the gondola
- An additional night away
- A comprehensive evening programme

We firmly believe this represents a stronger overall package and a better skiing and developmental experience for our students. Further detailed information, including confirmed travel times, kit guidance and a parents' information evening, will follow in due course. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at j.rusby@stwacademy.com

Yours sincerely

Miss J Rusby
Subject Leader of Physical Education

