

The Calder Learning Trust

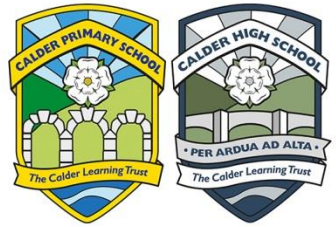
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Ref: ZPS/pw

28 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great pleasure, to inform you, that the Geography department is proposing a trip to Norway. The Hardanger region of Norway features two remarkably contrasting national parks and is a landscape of spectacular beauty. Here we can hike to waterfalls and glaciers, explore a hydropower plant, and very excitingly have a go at snowshoeing- a guided snowshoe walk adventure on the hills around Folgefonna National Park, offering spectacular views of the countryside.

As well as extensive leisure time activities, Norway has a long and enthralling history, stretching back into Norse mythology. The characters which populate these ancient legends have enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in recent times, and students are sure to enjoy a trip to the homeland of Thor, Loki and Odin.

Please see the draft itinerary outlined below:-

Day 1	Evening flight to Bergen (arrive approx. 22:00) - Overnight Bergen Airport Hotel
Day 2	Bergen City Tour (with tourist guide) - Storeblå Aquaculture Visitor Centre - Floibanen Funicular Railway (optional - pay locally) - Transfer to Voss Hostel
Day 3	Folgefonna National Park - Folgefonna Snow Shoeing (with activity guides)
Day 4	Sima Hydro Power Plant (escorted tour) - Norwegian Nature Centre - Hardangervidda Plateau - Vøringsfossen - Transfer to Bergen airport for flight home (depart approx. 19:00)

The trip is likely to depart at the start of the Easter holidays on Friday 22nd March 2024 returning Monday 25th March 2024. Dates and times are to be confirmed on release of the flight schedule later this year. We will more than likely be flying from Manchester Airport with a return coach departing from school.

Accommodation will be based at The Voss Hostel whilst we are based in Hardangertun and at a hotel whilst in Bergen on our first night.

The cost of the trip is approximately £920.00 (£828.00 for PP students). This may vary ever so slightly but will be confirmed once the flight schedule has been released. The trip has been priced on the minimum number of students required. If numbers are higher than the minimum, then the price should decrease.

The cost covers 3 nights and 4 days in Norway, flights, accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals, entrance fees, return transport to Manchester airport, insurance and transport on all days whilst in Norway.

If your child is interested in taking part, please make a non-refundable deposit of £100 paid using the ParentPay system by 31st March 2023.

Places will not be allocated on a first come first basis. If demand for places exceeds the maximum party size a ballot will be held and a reserve list put into operation. Deposits will be returned at this point only to any students on the reserve list.

A second non-fundable instalment of £175 will be payable by Friday 12th May 2023 with the final balance due by 26th January 2024. Although payments can be made at any point up to the deadline, we expect the following schedule to be kept to as a minimum in order to meet deadlines set by the tour company;

By 31st March 2023- £100 deposit

By 12th May 2023 – A further payment of £175

By 14th July 2023- further payment of £175

By 29th September 2023– a further payment of £175

By 8th December 2023– a further payment of £150

By 26th January 2024 – a final payment of approximately £140 (£48 for PP students) dependent on the confirmed final cost.

Please note in the event of a student dropping out prior to travel, monies will not be refunded unless we are able to re-allocate their place to another student.

Students may also be removed from the trip should they be involved in any serious behaviour incidents in school between now and the departure date.

It must be stated, that this trip is initially only open to current year 10 Geography students and those in year 9 opting to study Geography at GCSE. Students currently in Year 9 will have made their option choices prior to the deadline for submitting a deposit. Students wanting to participate on this trip must demonstrate a positive attitude to their learning in lessons and have a good behaviour record.

For further details, please see the webpage belonging to the tour company 'Discover The World' and search for school trips to Norway. Please note, this is a different company to the one recently used for the Iceland trip.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Geography department.

Yours sincerely

Z Pickles

Miss Pickles
Geography Curriculum Leader
The Calder Learning Trust