

23rd November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are no doubt aware, the situation in Austria regarding the current national lockdown, is likely to have an effect on our planned ski trip. The literature that we have received so far explains that Austria has gone into lockdown from November 22nd until December 13th at the latest: we are due to enter Austria on December 12th. We will also be travelling through Germany who are still considering restrictions. Therefore, the visit is looking unlikely.

The Austrian government will review the end date of the lockdown on December 1st and IBT, our tour operator, will make a decision regarding the trip following the government announcement. We need to wait for final confirmation with regard to our insurance and the IBT refund.

We are currently looking at alternative dates if the trip is to be postponed. We need to take into account the public examinations calendar, to ensure pupils are not away from school at crucial stages of their few months before GCSEs take place.

As Mr Blackburn and I mentioned previously, our insurance company will not review our case until two weeks before our departure, so it seems to make sense that we wait to hear the Austrian government's announcement and make a final decision on the following 3 options:

1. The trip goes ahead on the planned dates due to restrictions in Austria being eased with hotels fully open.
2. We postpone until a date when Covid 19 cases are more likely to be lower (potentially February 12th – February 19th).
3. We cancel the trip and issue a full refund to parents.

I fully understand the frustration regarding this, but we need to consider the vast amounts of information and literature we have been given in order to make the correct, informed choice regarding the trip.

The Leadership Team, myself and IBT Travel are in daily contact to discuss the ever changing situation and please be assured that the safety of our pupils and staff is our highest priority.

I know how much students are looking forward to the trip and we are exploring all avenues to try and allow it to go ahead.

I will be in contact with you following the final decision, which will be reached by December 3rd at the latest.

Yours sincerely



Tom Heard