Tuesday 13th October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Christmas Trips – Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th December 2026

We are pleased to offer Christmas trips as part of our annual tradition to recognise and reward the hard work and perseverance shown by our students, and for them consistently meeting the school's values. There will be a cost for these trips, however, we have tried to keep the cost as low as possible, whilst still providing students with an exciting range of trips to participate in. Students who do not wish to attend a trip, will continue to follow their normal school timetable for that day.

The Christmas trips comprise of **Shopping at Centre MK** and **ONE** of the following activities:

- **Hollywood Bowl (Bowling), Xscape: £25.00pp**
  This includes insurance, transport, and two hours in the centre MK

- **Planet Ice (Ice Skating), Winter Hill: £25.00pp**
  This includes insurance, transport, skate hire and two hours in the centre MK

- **Sleeping Beauty Pantomime, MK Theatre: £35.00pp**
  This includes insurance, transport, ice cream, and two hours in the centre MK

Years 7 and 8 will go on Tuesday 8th with Years 9, 10 and 11 going on Thursday 10th December 2026

Your child should only choose **ONE** activity, and we advise that ***there are limited spaces available***, so places will be allocated on payment via ParentPay. We will endeavour to provide every student with their first option. However, if we are oversubscribed on a particular trip, students may be offered an alternative activity where available. If you have paid for a trip and there is not a space available for your child, or your child does not wish to undertake the alternative, we will refund the money paid in full. Each trip will be added separately on ParentPay for you to purchase your child's choice. If you would like to book but are struggling to pay the cost to secure a place, please contact us as soon as possible, and we will do our best to try and support where possible.

If you would like your child to take part in any of the Christmas trips, please complete payment through your ParentPay account, no later than **Friday 6th November.** This will then allow us to complete ticket purchases and confirm coach bookings. Once this has been done, the trip will become non-refundable.

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Following several requests, we are also giving students the option this year to choose a one-day work shadowing placement as an alternative to attending a Christmas trip, and this would need to be undertaken on the same day that your child's year group is out on a scheduled trip (dates as above).

To confirm this choice, once again please complete the consent form on ParentPay before the trip deadline. Placements must be arranged through your child's **Unifrog account**. The initial placement form, employer form and parent/guardian permission form must all be submitted and approved before the placement can go ahead. For support on this option, please contact careers@sandysecondaryschool.com. If the placement is not approved by the work shadow date, your child must attend school as normal.

To be eligible to participate in the Christmas trips, students must meet strict criterion, as we seek to reward and recognise those students who consistently meet expectations, work hard, and demonstrate the Sandy Secondary School values.

In line with this, students must have accrued no more than **25 behaviour points** between **Monday 12th October** and **Friday 4th December,** and their attendance must be at least **96%**, unless there is an exceptional circumstance of which we are aware. Students who have been absent for authorised reasons, including illness or medical appointments, will not be penalised, and will be permitted to attend.

Please note that the school also has the right to refuse permission to those students whose behaviour at school has demonstrated that they may impact on the safety and enjoyment of themselves or others. Students will not be allowed on the trip if they have:

- Received a suspension
- Received more than one period of time in Reflection

The school may also take into consideration the following:

- Frequency of behaviour points issued (as outlined above)
- The ability of the student to follow school rules, routines, and reasonable requests from staff

These trips are non-refundable due to the process of pre-booking tickets. Therefore, those students who have paid and are then unable to attend due to the outlined criteria above, will **not** receive a refund for a paid trip.

More information regarding the precise details of each trip, will be provided later in the autumn term.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or require further information, then please email trips@sandysecondaryschool.com and we will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Rutter
Head of School