

Urmston Grammar School

Newton Road

Urmston

Manchester

M41 5UG

email: office@urmstongrammar.org.uk

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Tel: 0161 748 2875

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July 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Ski Trip to CANADA February 2026

I am in the process of organising the Urmston Grammar Ski Trip 2026 and would like to give you some of the details now and gauge the level of interest in the trip.

The trip will depart the UK (Heathrow) by air on Saturday February 14th, 2026 and return on Saturday February 21st – 5 days x 5 hours of skiing. We will fly with a scheduled airline (BA or Air Canada) to Calgary and from there travel up to Jasper in the Canadian Rockies. I have not finalised the hotel with our tour operator (Ski Bound) yet but it is likely to be the Forest Park Hotel. Students can ski the Marmot Mountain slopes by day and explore the town of Jasper in the afternoon and evening. The trip is open to all students who will be in years 8-13 at the time of departure – so that is the current years 7-11 and the new year 7 and 12 who arrive in September 2024. All abilities of skier are welcome on the trip.

The cost of the trip is still to be fully finalised but will be between **£2050 and £2120**. This includes:

- Return coach transfer to Heathrow Airport, London
- Transatlantic flights with scheduled airlines
- Return coach transfer from Calgary Airport to the hotel.
- Daily transfer from the hotel to the resort (20 minute coach journey)
- 6 nights in resort half board accommodation.
- 5 day hire of skis, boots & poles.
- 5 day hire of helmets.
- 5 x 5 hours ski tuition.
- 5 day lift pass.
- Resort representative.
- Winter sports insurance
- Ski Breakage and Piste Closure Insurance.
- Evening activities – skating, swimming, watching ice hockey for example

There are a number of other costs involved – ski clothing (jacket, ski trousers, goggles, base layers etc – can be purchased for around £100-£150 at the parents evening before departure or from Decathlon etc), chill factor lessons before we go (optional), lunches in resort and spending money. In addition those students who will be over 16 at the time of departure will be charged an additional £88 for Air Passenger Duty. The cost of the trip can be spread out over the next 16 months. Students in the current year 10 would need to be certain of attending UGS VI form and the entry requirements can be found in the VI form section of the school website – look for the course handbook.

The cost of the trip is for skiing only. If your son/daughter would like to **snowboard** then this will incur an additional cost. This is because we may need an additional instructor(s) to cover the smaller snowboarding groups and the equipment hire is also slightly more expensive. Snowboarding is only possible if the group(s) contains students of a similar standard. Please sign up for the trip in the expectation that your son/daughter will ski but do drop me an email expressing an interest in snowboarding and let me know the ability level of your son/daughter – beginner, intermediate, expert. If I can, I will put together a snowboarding group and let you know what the cost will be.

Urmston Grammar School - Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall
pride, participation, empathy

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If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the UGS 2026 ski trip please make a payment of £150 on parent pay to cover the cost of the initial **non-refundable** deposit. We will need a second deposit of £150 in September and a third payment of £150 in October. I will need you to have paid 50% of the cost of the trip by February 2025 and 75% by July 2025. Payments should be completed by November 2025 – this date is TBC. If we do not reach the required numbers for the trip to be viable than all deposits will be returned. Please also note that the students have not been informed about this trip in school. The trip will go live on parent pay at the end of the day on Monday July 8th and will be filled on a first come first served basis – there will be 90 places on the trip. I will set up a waiting list if the trip is oversubscribed so, please do e mail the finance office if you find that the trip is full by the time you come to pay the deposit.

If you would like any further information about the trip please feel free to e mail me on:
mmcpartland@urmstongrammar.org.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew McPartland
(Ski Trip Leader)

<https://www.skimarmot.com/mountain/trail-map-lift-status/>