

Urmston Grammar School



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Dear Parents/Carers

RE Canada Ski Trip 2026

Firstly, thank you for your interest in the school ski trip in 2026. I am reaching out to you now to let you know that I may need to switch the ski trip to the European Alps. Firstly, this summer the town of Jasper has been decimated by a forest fire and 40% of the town has been destroyed. Our prospective hotel survived the fire, but I am concerned that the ski areas and the commercial centre of the town may have been badly affected by the fire and that this will detract from the experience that the students will have in Canada. The ski company I have booked with had a very good relationship with the hotel in Jasper and this kept the price down somewhat. Quotes for other ski resorts in the Canadian Rockies were significantly more expensive than the hotel that I booked in Jasper. Secondly, the take-up for the ski trip in 2026 was significantly lower than normal and this may have been caused by the fact that the Canada trip was more expensive than our usual trips. At UGS we do aim to take approximately 80 students away skiing each February half term and the Canada trip will be a much smaller affair.

I am therefore, considering switching the 2026 ski trip back to Europe. I have held hotel beds in Bardonecchia in Italy – a high resort with plenty of skiing for intermediates and beginners (<https://www.skibound.co.uk/destination/italy/bardonecchia/>). All students on the Canada trip would be able to switch directly to the Italy trip and I would then send out letters to the rest of the school. The ski trip to Italy would cost approximately £500 less than the Canada trip – exact costs TBC. The Italy trip would be by air, leaving on Sunday February 15th and returning on Saturday February 21st – half term. Students would have 5 days of skiing – the same as the Canada option. At this stage I am simply opening up a consultation with you as I have not yet made a final decision. If you would still be happy for your son/daughter to participate in the trip if it was switched to Italy I do not require any feedback from you. If, however, you are against the idea of moving the trip to Italy and are strongly in favour of continuing with the planned trip to Canada I invite you to contact me via email to share your concerns by Friday afternoon. At this point I can then make a judgement call as to whether to re-launch the trip to Italy.

My e mail is mmcpartland@urmstongrammar.org.uk – please also feel free to call the office if you would prefer a call-back from me.

Kind regards

Matthew McPartland
(UG Ski Trip leader)