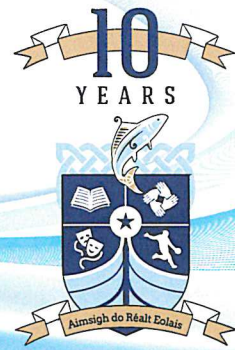


Coláiste na hInse



12th March 2020

A chairde

Following the announcement this morning to close all schools at 6pm this evening, the information meeting for the Italy trip is no longer taking place.

The current advice (updated 12/03/2020) from the Department of Foreign Affairs is as follows:

"On 9th March, the Italian government declared that the whole of Italy is now in isolation, as a result of the increased spread of Coronavirus in the country. Travel between Italian regions, provinces and comuni (townships) is now prohibited with the exception of necessary travel for work purposes or emergencies. Tourist attractions, ski resorts, bars/pubs, nightclubs, cultural sites and museums will remain closed country-wide until April 3rd; restaurants and cafés will have limited opening hours and movements within and around comuni and cities will be subject to police checks. Until further notice, and while the isolation measures are in effect, we are advising that citizens do not travel to Italy."

We have been advised by GTI that as it currently stands the flights for our trip have not been cancelled as Aer Lingus have cancelled flights up to April 3rd and Ryanair have cancelled flights up to April 8th. This travel advice only extends until April 3rd and we are due to travel on May 22nd.

The balance of the trip is due 10 weeks before travel so these are the options available to parents at this time:

- Pay the full balance of the trip by 13th March, this will result in:
 1. If the Department of Foreign Affairs advise to not travel to Italy within 14 days of our travel date then you can claim for travel insurance (**NOTE: Balance must be paid by 13th March to claim insurance**)
 2. The trip can still go ahead as planned, providing there is no travel advice issued by the DFA and all suitable supports are in place.
- If you chose to cancel the trip before midnight tonight (before 13th May). The cancellation policy will apply (see below) and the deposit of €250 will be lost. Cancellations must be made in writing.

<u>Weeks Prior to Departure:</u>	<u>Amount Forfeited</u>
More than 10 weeks:	Loss of deposits (full €250) plus any extras paid (tickets, flight supplements etc.)
10 - 8 weeks before travel:	50% (where Tour Price <€500, then loss of deposit plus any extras paid)
8 - 6 weeks before travel:	75%
6 weeks or less before travel:	100%

We are aware that this is most unpredictable situation and we are trying to manage as best we can with the information to hand keeping to mind more information may come to light in the coming weeks about the spread of the virus and possible travel restrictions. Please be assured we are trying to manage the situation in a manner that is fair to all and especially aware of the desire to secure refunds where possible in the event of cancellations. I would ask that you bear with us as we step through the situation. We will keep you advised via school website and text message.

Le meas,

Anne Marie McCarrick

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