



MD/BA

01 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Texas Space School Trip 2020 - Cancelled

For a number of reasons, but principally because the safety of our pupils and staff are our foremost concern, we have made the decision to cancel the Dumfries and Galloway Space School trip in October.

Cancelling at this stage means that there is no guarantee we can get money back, but the trip company was keen to push ahead, with no guarantees of pupil safety or of being able to deliver the Space School course. I felt that to continue was a greater risk than that of losing money. At this stage the trip company insists on retaining the first deposit we paid. It is very disappointing, but unavoidable, in my opinion, under the circumstances:

- We cannot currently apply to the Visa waiver programme we normally use.
- We do not know if the flights will operate
- We do not know if the accommodation promised will be available
- Space Centre University are currently closed and are only offering a Clean Room programme when they re-open in July. In addition they are stating that class sizes will be limited.
- We do not know about flights home
- We do not know if pupils and staff would have to quarantine for two weeks after returning

I found all the above to be an impossible situation. I wrote to the company saying all this and insisting on a full refund, giving the circumstances. They have agreed to waive the 50% charge they are technically entitled to and will only charge us the £150 per head deposit. I am pursuing the matter via the authority insurer and legal team on your behalf to see if this deposit can also be recovered.

I will be in touch again about refunds due which will be at least the total you have already paid minus the approximately £150 per head the tour company demands. We hope to be able to recover more.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Asher
Headteacher