Dear Parents,

We invite your child to be a member of the 2012 Snow Tour. The Tour is a total educational experience during which students are taught safety in the alpine environment and snow skiing or boarding. The Snow Tour will occur in Week 4 of Term 3 leaving on Saturday evening August 4th and returning on the morning of Saturday August 11th.

The cost for the tour will be $1390 approximately (2012 season costs have not yet been finalized) and will include:
Set Costs – The following is included in the set price. Please note that this package represents excellent value for ‘in snow’ accommodation.
- Transport to Mt. Hotham in 5 star coaches fitted with seat belts.
- 5 night lodge accommodation in the Alpine Village of Mt Hotham with full breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our lodge is outstanding accommodation for students with 3-8 in a bedroom, excellent meals, and prime location by Hotham Central, being able to ski in/ski out from the slopes.
- Equipment Hire – helmet, skis, boots and poles or helmet, board, boots and wrist guards. A helmet is compulsory for everyone and borders will also wear wrist guards.
- 5 ½ - day lift pass (includes a pass for one night of night skiing/boarding)
- 5 x 2 hour lessons with fully qualified, professional Mt. Hotham Instructors
- Transport directly to and from the lodge on arrival and departure.
- Mountain entrance fee
- Group Tour Photo
- Full supervision by Marryatville teaching staff and other experienced staff members from the community. All staff have to meet the criteria set by the Education Department to act as a Snow Leader. The ratio of staff to students for a snow tour (set by the Education Dept) is one to eight. Students will be supervised all day on the slopes and there will be no free skiing/boarding.

Extra Costs:
- It is compulsory for students to have the correct clothing for skiing/boarding –this includes snow specific pants, jacket, goggles, gloves, neck warmer etc. If students do not have their own clothing, a pre-booked hire package (pants and jacket) will be available from the Rental Shop at Mt Hotham at approximately $57 for the week.
- Some students may choose to snowboard. We do not have the staff to cover large groups of snowboarders and the numbers will be strictly limited to the supervision levels that we can manage.
- Optional travel insurance $34
- Optional night activity at Mt Hotham e.g. movies $15 approximately
- A refundable deposit of $20 for armband, whistle and emergency contact card
- Money for an evening meal on the return journey (students can use their $20 armband/whistle/contact card refund deposit for this meal if they return these items.)

The Snow Tour is demanding! It is an adventure sport in an unpredictable, challenging environment. Skiing/boarding requires certain levels of fitness, a clear understanding of rules and expectations, knowledge of slope safety and an understanding and respect for the environment in which the activity takes place.
Students who wish to join the tour must understand that they will be expected to:

- attend lunchtime meetings as required
- promptly return all forms accurately filled in and provide information as required
- undertake a snow education programme and pass a written snow safety test
- maintain a Snow Tour display folder with all newsletters, handouts and information
- meet all financial and other commitments by due dates
- undertake a fitness programme
- participate in all snow activities
- follow rules and directions given by all Snow Tour staff

Students who are deemed to be unsuitable for the Tour through a poor behaviour or attendance record may be excluded from participating in the tour. The cancellation policy in relation to refunds will apply.

Students can secure a place on the Tour by paying a **$120 deposit** and returning the completed attached Information and Payment Form before Wednesday Week 4 February 22nd 2012 to the Finance Office before school or recess time. After this period no further deposits will be taken, unless vacancies exist. The Snow Tour has a limit on the number of places. In the event of excess student numbers the Year 10 Managers will decide on the method for selecting the Tour participants. The attached lilac Information and Payment Form must be accurately filled out, signed and presented with the payment to the Finance Office.

On payment of this **$120 deposit** the withdrawal of the student from the Snow Tour will result in the forfeiture of this deposit. Money received by the school for this Tour is then paid directly to the companies providing these Alpine services and they provide no refunds once bookings are made.

A **second installment of $250** must be paid by Wednesday April 10th which is in the last week of term1. The **balance of payment** for this Tour must be paid by Wednesday June 13th 2012 term 2 week 8. Invoices will be sent to parents and the student will not participate in this activity unless full payment has been received by this due date. No refunds will be given if a student withdraws from the Snow Tour after this payment deadline, June 13th 2012. Parents will be responsible for payment of all damages, loses, and breakages their child incurs and the cost of any medical, dental or additional transport/services. Alterations or changes to any information for notification to mountain services after June 13th 2012 will incur an amendment fee of $200 imposed by the tour agent.

Please note that an evening parent meeting will be organised in mid term 2. We would expect all students and a parent to attend this meeting. Copies of the Snow Tour newsletters and forms will be available on the school web site under News/Snow Tour 2012.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Margaret Vivian
Snow Tour Manager