

Dear Parents

### Slalom Ski Team at WHS

We're thrilled to announce an exhilarating extension to our competitive Ski Slalom Team at WHS!

#### **Overview**

Starting in September 2025, students will have the exciting opportunity to train, race, and represent WHS on the slopes as part of our revamped Ski team. Whether you're passionate about skiing or are a budding slalom racer, this is an incredible opportunity to be part of something special!

We're on the lookout for 24 skilled skiers to join the WHS Ski Team. If you can confidently tackle red and black runs or have previous experience with slalom racing, this is your chance to take your skills to the next level.

The program includes six expert-led training sessions with professional slalom coaches at Sandown dry slope, exclusive WHS Ski Team-branded kit, and the thrilling opportunity to compete in races on both snow and dry slopes.

#### **Training**

All training sessions will be held at Sandown dry slope on Fridays from 19:15 to 20:15, led by our fantastic coaching team and by two experienced Sandown slalom coaches.

We know many students will already have their own specialised equipment. However, all necessary equipment (skis, boots, and helmets) can be borrowed from the venue, so there's no need to worry if you don't have your own gear.

Due to the timing of the sessions, students will be responsible for making their own way to and from the venue.

Throughout the year, we'll focus on building confidence, refining technique, and increasing speed. With such a small, dedicated team of students we can truly personalise our coaching approach to help each skier reach their full potential.

#### **Competitions**

We will be competing in NSSA and SATIPSKI events throughout the year, held both on snow at Hemel Hempstead and on dry slopes like Aldershot. Each competition has different entry limits and requirements, so we will carefully select students to meet the event criteria. Once selected for an event, students can decide whether they wish to participate in the competition. Every team member will have the opportunity to compete in at least three events over the year.

Competitions take place on both weekdays and weekends, ensuring minimal disruption to lesson time. For weekend events, students are responsible for their own travel, while transportation for school-day competitions will be arranged by the school.

### **Cost**

This will be a parent-funded team. The annual cost for training, equipment hire and team kit will be finalised once student interest and team numbers are confirmed.

Competition fees are additional and will range from £70 to £100 per event, depending on the venue. Students will be invited to compete based on selection and availability, and payments for competitions will be made through ParentPay once places are confirmed. All students will be given the opportunity to take part in at least 3 competitions over the academic year.

### **Trials**

We're excited to announce that we'll be hosting **two trial sessions** at **Sandown dry slope** on **Friday 19th and Friday 26th September 2025**, from **19:15 to 20:15**.

Each session will begin with warm-up runs, followed by timed slalom runs through a set course. We'll be looking for students who demonstrate strong technique, competitive times, and a willingness to be coached and take on feedback.

Following the trials, invitations will be sent to the students selected to join the WHS Ski Team for the 2025–26 season.

There is no cost to attend the trials.

### **When Selected**

Once the team is selected, we will request an upfront payment (cost to follow) to cover training and team kit, which can be made via ParentPay.

From there, we'll be ready to hit the ground running, starting training and entering competitions!

### **Calendar for the 2025-26 year**

**Training** - The dates listed below are our intended training schedule. These may be subject to change based on slope availability and adjustments to the school calendar.

Final training dates for the year will be confirmed once the team is selected, and all payments have been received.

Intended Training Dates:

3<sup>rd</sup> of October

21<sup>st</sup> of November

16<sup>th</sup> of January

20<sup>th</sup> of March

15<sup>th</sup> of May

19<sup>th</sup> of June

**Competitions** – We plan to compete in NSSA and SATIPSKI events throughout the year. While many dates are still being finalised, we're excited to confirm that we will be entering the NSSA Southern Championships on 6th October 2025 at the Snow Dome in Hemel Hempstead, with plenty more competitions to follow!

We will keep you updated as soon as all the dates are locked into the calendar.

### **Looking to the Future**

As this is the first year of the revamped WHS Ski Team, we're laying the groundwork for something truly special with big plans to grow and expand in the years ahead.

To wrap up the season, our final training session in summer 2026 will also serve as a trial for the prestigious British Schoolgirls Ski Competition in Flaine, January 2027. We plan to take nine standout students who have demonstrated dedication and speed throughout the year to represent WHS at this incredible international event.

Looking ahead to the 2026–27 season, we're aiming to offer even more training sessions and introduce a three-day training camp at SnowWorld in Landgraaf during the Christmas holidays.

We're full of exciting ideas and ambitions to make the WHS Ski Team a standout success.

### **How to Join**

If you're interested in trialling for the WHS Ski Team, please email Kitty Lewis at [k.lewis@wim.gdst.net](mailto:k.lewis@wim.gdst.net).

We have a maximum of 48 spaces available for the trials, so be sure to include a brief description of the student's skiing level, experience, and confidence. Once we receive your email, we'll be in touch to confirm your child's place at the trial, along with full details on date, time, and location.

Students must be able to ski to a high level. Students must be able to confidently ski down red and black runs or have previous experience with slalom racing.