



October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY RESIDENTIAL FIELD VISIT: 19-21 April 2024

As part of their A Level course, students need to complete a 3000-4000 word "Independent Investigation" which requires fieldwork, data collection and research. This element is worth 20% of the final grade. To support this part of the course, the Geography Department is organising a residential field visit from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 April 2024. The focus of the visit is for students to have the opportunity to collect information for this "Independent Investigation" and the visit is open to all Year 12 students.

We will be based at Skern Lodge Field Centre in Appledore, North Devon. This centre has many years' worth of experience of A Level fieldwork investigations and we believe it will be of great benefit to our students in helping them carry out and complete successful independent investigations. The programme of study will include work on coastal processes, coastal management, the characteristics of diverse rural places and sand dune succession. Students will be able to come up with topics for investigation that are linked to these areas of the A Level specification.

We will travel by coach, leaving school at 9am on the Friday, and returning at approximately 8.30pm on the Sunday. Skern Lodge is an excellent field studies centre. The accommodation is comfortable, the food is good and the staff are friendly and helpful. A proportion of the teaching is undertaken by the centre's own experienced staff, who have detailed knowledge of the local area.

The cost of the field course will be between £325 and £340, depending on the number of students taking part (based on a minimum of 30). This includes full-board accommodation (first meal Friday evening), all transport, tuition and insurance. Any student who does not take part in the visit will need to organise their own fieldwork as required for their independent investigation.

If you would like your daughter/son to take part in this visit, we will require a deposit of £60 to be paid on ParentPay by Friday 27 October. If you have any difficulty meeting this deadline, please contact me or Mrs Cooper in the Finance Office as soon as possible. We must emphasise that the deposit constitutes a firm commitment and will not be returnable, and the balance will be due, unless the visit does not take place, or if your son/daughter withdraws for medical or compassionate reasons. When we know final numbers, we will confirm the final cost and send you a payment plan for the balance. We anticipate that this will be in monthly instalments of approximately £70 from 1 December 2023 to 1 March 2024 inclusive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, either directly or through your son/daughter, if you have any questions regarding the visit.

Yours sincerely

M Barrett

Subject Leader for Geography