

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP 16 – 17 OCTOBER 2017

We are delighted that your son/daughter has opted to study A-level Geography and hope they soon feel settled on the course. As you are aware, students sit three exams at the end of Year 13. Fieldwork is a compulsory aspect of the A-level Geography course, and all students must participate in the 4 day fieldwork programme on offer. Two of these days are outlined in the letter below and take place on the 16 and 17 October 2017. Two further days, including a one night residential are being planned for later in the year. More information about this second trip will be provided later in the year.

Fieldwork plays an important role in preparing students for all their exams as it enhances their understanding and ability to apply their knowledge in both physical (Paper 1) and human (Paper 2) geography. It also helps them to develop analysis skills, which leads to greater confidence and success when looking at geographical issues, essential for Paper 3. In addition, students will be expected to carry out an independent research project which requires them to develop an individual (unique) question, and plan methods to provide evidence to answer this. The trip in October is the first step in equipping students with a working knowledge of a variety of fieldwork methods and an opportunity to collect valuable primary data.

Over the two days, students will visit Leeds and the East Coast (Bridlington and Mappleton). The exact day they visit each place depends on their teaching group:

TIMETABLE FOR VISITS

	For students in 12B/Gg2 (SA with JWC and CAR), 12CGg3 (SA with KCO and ACL) and 12BGg6 (SJF with DHE and AJO).	For students in 12Gg4 (with SAS and JKM) and 12A/Gg1 (SJF with DME and LKN)
Mon 16 October	Depart St Aidan's at 08:30 and travel to Leeds Packed lunch required Return to school for approximately 15:30	Depart St Aidan's at 08:30 and travel to Bridlington Packed lunch required Continue to Mappleton Return to St Aidan's for approximately 18:00
Tues 17 October	Depart St Aidan's at 08:30 and travel to Bridlington Packed lunch required Continue to Mappleton Return to St Aidan's for approximately 18:00	Depart St Aidan's at 08:30 and travel to Leeds Packed lunch required Return to school for approximately 15:30

A variety of fieldwork will be carried out which includes questionnaires, pedestrian counts, cliff profiles, sketches, bi-polar analysis and land use surveys. Students will work in small groups around the various locations and although staff will check on students, they will not be directly supervised. They will be told where and how to contact a member of staff at all times.

The cost for the two days will be **£20.00**. The cost covers transport costs for both days. Our preferred method of payment for this trip is via ParentPay.

If St John Fisher pupils would like to pay by this method, please contact the Finance Department at St Aidan's where they will be given a St Aidan's activation code and instructions. You will be able to give consent online for the trip as well as see the balance due. Cheques will still be accepted and should be made payable to St Aidan's School and returned **to the Finance Department at St Aidan's** together with the consent slip below. All payments must be returned by **Monday 9 October 2017**.

Information relating to health and emergency contacts will be taken from the form filled in when your son/daughter entered Sixth Form. If there are any amendments to this information, or concerns that require further discussion please contact the school nurse. If your son/daughter's medical details indicate that they need medication such as inhalers, please ensure that they bring them on all fieldwork occasions; **otherwise we will be unable to take them**.

We will be outside for the majority of the fieldwork. Students therefore need to come suitably dressed with warm clothes, waterproofs and sensible sturdy footwear. It can be cold, wet and windy, and there is limited shelter, it is best to be prepared. Students need to bring a clipboard if they have one and full writing equipment (pen, pencil and ruler) and a packed lunch. They will need a small rucksack or bag with a shoulder strap to carry during the day. **Please note that we cannot leave students unaccompanied in Leeds, or drop them off en-route back to Harrogate.**

School trips including residential visits form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. When accompanying children on a school trip, staff are acting in *loco parentis* just as they do in school. However, trips away from the normal school environment involve taking into account different routines and environments, which demand that pupils are able to show an increased level of responsibility and maturity. In order to participate in any trip the school staff have to be confident that a pupil will be able to cope with the challenges that the trip presents.

The school will look at the behaviour, the attendance and the wellbeing of a pupil and decide whether they are able to cope with these demands **before** accepting the pupil onto any trip out of school. The decision to allow a child to participate will be taken between the trip leader, the head of year and senior staff. Once a pupil has been accepted onto a trip then, if in the time between gaining a place on the trip and the departure, staff have concerns again about the pupil's participation in the trip, the school reserves the right to withdraw the pupil's place.

Should you have any queries regarding this trip please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Mrs S Stone
Head of Geography
St Aidan's High School

Mr D Heaton
Head of Geography
St John Fisher High School

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP 16-17 OCTOBER 2017– only return if paying by cheque

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the Geography fieldwork trips to Leeds and the East Coast.

I have enclosed a cheque for £20.00. If there are any amendments to your son/daughter's medical/contact details please write below:

Name of Student Tutor Group

Signed Parent/Guardian Date

Please return the completed form and cheque and put in the catering box outside the St Aidan's Finance Office by Monday 9 October 2017

Please do not return this form to St John Fisher as this trip is being administered through the St Aidan's Finance Office.