

September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP Monday 17 October 2022 and Tuesday 7 February 2023

We are delighted to be able to reintroduce fieldwork to the Geography A-level curriculum. Fieldwork is a **compulsory** aspect of the A-level Geography course, and all students must participate in at least 4-days of fieldwork. Two of these days are outlined in the letter below and take place on the 17 October 2022 and 7 February 2023. All students are expected to participate on both day trips.

In addition, there will be two more **compulsory** fieldwork trips in the summer term, but we are still awaiting confirmation of the dates of these, so I will write to you again once I have more information. Both trips will be day trips.

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.

This NEA (non-Examined Assessment) is worth 20% of A-level Geography and planning and writing this piece will be a core activity in lessons between June and October, and something students should be working on over the summer. The trips on the 17 October 2022 and 7 February 2023 are 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 the East Coast (Bridlington) and Leeds. The details of which can be found below:

TIMETABLE FOR VISITS

	All students - based at St Aidan's and St John Fisher
Monday 17 October 2022	Depart St Aidan's at 08:50 and travel by coach to Bridlington Packed lunch required Return to St Aidan's for approximately 17:30
Tuesday 7 February 2023	Depart St Aidan's at 08:50 and travel by coach 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. However, all students will know the location of the staff and how to always contact them.

The cost for the two days will be **£24.00**. The cost covers transport costs for both days and it should be available on your ParentPay account now and payment should be made by Friday 7 October 2022. If your son/daughter is at St John Fishers, please contact the Finance Department at St Aidan's where they will be given a St Aidan's activation code and instructions (h.holey@staidans.co.uk).

Consent for the trip is required on ParentPay. Please note that by ticking the box online you are agreeing to your son/daughter taking part on the trip and the cost and confirming that their medical details are up to date. Your child's medical details will be used for **all four fieldwork trips**. Therefore, if there are any changes over the course of this year you must inform both **myself** and the **school nurse**. It is vitally important that we have up to date medical details for all students going out of school on trips. **We will not be able to take any student that we do not hold this information for**. Information relating to health and emergency contacts is taken from the form filled in when your son/daughter entered Sixth Form. 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 most of the fieldwork. Students therefore need to come **suitably dressed in warm clothes, waterproofs and sensible sturdy footwear**. It can be cold, wet and windy, and as 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 form an important part of the curriculum offered at St Aidan's. Please help us by reinforcing to your son/daughter our expectations on behaviour in order that each student can gain the maximum out of the trip. If we have any concerns about a student's participation on this trip in the time between now and the date of departure, we reserve the right to withdraw the student's place.

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

Regards

Mrs A Lennox
Head of Geography
St Aidan's High School

Mr P Davis
Head of Geography
St John Fisher High School

