

16 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Geography GCSE Fieldtrip – Tuesday 15 October 2019

On **Tuesday 15 October 2019**, your son/daughter will be required to attend a Geography GCSE Field Trip. This field trip is an essential component of the course as Geographical Skills make up 25% of the allocated question marks in the final GCSE Geography examinations. The fieldwork will also help them develop the interpretative, evaluative and analytical skills which form a further 35% of the allocated examination marks.

On the day, students should meet in the 'Quad' at **8am** for a prompt departure. They will return to school at **approximately 4.00pm**. The fieldtrip will take place at the Field Study Centre in Epping Forest.

River landscapes are an inspiring manifestation of the complex interactions of water, geology and life on vast scales in space and time. Students will contextualise this on a local-scale exploring the variety of physical processes that interact to form river basins; investigating how geology, climate and management impact on the landscape. Students may focus on:

- *Downstream Survey: How and why characteristics such as channel shape, valley profile, gradient and velocity change along the course of a river?*
- *Meander Survey: How and why do the meander cross-sections, size and relationship to the flood plan vary?*
- *Hydrological Investigations: Investigation of the infiltration rates in various parts of a drainage basin.*
- *Management Survey: Investigation of how human activities can lead to changes in the environment of the river basin.*

A wide range of data collection techniques will be introduced including their limitations and application to different investigations.

Students should wear comfortable clothing, suitable for a day outside. They should pack a spare set of clothes in case they get wet in the river and bring a plastic bag for any wet clothing. A digital camera/camera phone, clipboard, colour pencils, pen/pencil etc. are also essential for collecting data. Please ensure the students have a packed lunch with them for the day.

The cost of the trip is **£34** funded by voluntary contributions. It will only be possible to run the trip if the level of support from parents is sufficient. If you are experiencing financial hardship and this is likely to prevent your child attending, please contact me. The school has some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

Vyners School

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Payment should be made via sQuid, our online payment system. **Cash and cheques will no longer be accepted.** Please log onto the upgraded system (www.squidcard.com) and select the 'trips/activities purse'. This trip will be clearly visible (**Year 11 Geog Fieldwork**) and must be specifically selected in order to make payment. Please follow the instructions on screen, most importantly you must **tick the consent** box to proceed. An emailed receipt will automatically be sent to you by the system once payment is made.

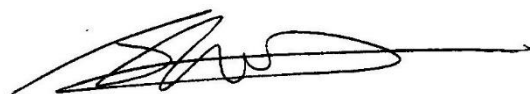
It is very important that payment is made before the stated deadline of **Friday 27 September 2019**. The school does not have funds available to meet the cost of late contributions. Regretfully, a failure to pay promptly may result in your son or daughter being excluded from the trip.

Vyners School has in place detailed procedures for ensuring that trips are well planned and that the health, welfare and safety of students are protected. A careful and written risk assessment has been prepared for this trip and adequate student supervision and insurance arrangements will be put in place.

It is expected that all students will observe the highest standard of politeness, courtesy and conduct at all times. Our students are representing Vyners School and it is expected that they will do everything in a way that reflects positively on themselves and the school. The School's Behaviour Policy continues to be in force throughout the trip. Should it prove necessary to send a student home for misbehaviour, parents / carers will be expected to meet all extra costs incurred. In the event of a student being refused participation on a trip before departure because of poor behaviour, any contributions already paid will also be forfeit.

I would like to stress that this is an important part of GCSE exam preparation. I trust that you will also remind your son/daughter that they will be expected to work very hard on the day and their data will be required for follow up back at school. Please can you fill in the attached slip below and return it to the department. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at School.

Yours sincerely,



Miss S Brown
Geography Subject Leader