



ABINGDON

From Biology: Su McRae

13 January 2017

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian of Lower Sixth Biologists,

RE: Orielton Field Centre Trip Monday 1 to Wednesday 3 May 2017

Ecological field work is an important part of the A-level biology curriculum and to support the work that will be covered in school we would expect all of our lower sixth biologists to attend a residential field trip in the summer term. Once again, we will be returning to Orielton Field Centre which is one of the Field Studies Council centres and offers courses that are specific to the requirements of our Examination Board. This will be an opportunity to plan, and carry out, sampling techniques in habitats that are not accessible from the school site. This can be a difficult part of the biology course and first hand experience of ecological techniques gives students a real advantage. The course is taught by the Centre staff and offers a mix of classroom theory sessions and practical sampling techniques.

We will leave 0700 on the morning of Monday 1 May (a Bank Holiday) and return 2100 in the evening on Wednesday 3 May. Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch for the Monday, the remainder of the meals will all be provided by the Centre.

The provisional activities/content for the weekend will be as follows:

- Rocky seashore transect.
- Sand dune succession.
- Capture, mark, release and recapture.
- Invertebrate survey in polluted and unpolluted streams.

The cost of the trip will be approximately £255. If you would like to book a place then please could you complete the attached consent slip and return to Mrs McRae / Mr Bliss in Biology with a £50 deposit cheque. The balance of £205 will be added to the April bill. Please note that by completing this consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip. The non-refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The balance of payment being applied to your school bill is a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred. Any over payment will be reimbursed once final costs have been settled.

Please have consent forms and deposit cheques in no later than Monday 30 January. If you have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me on su.mcrae@abingdon.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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