



# ABINGDON

From: Mr Ian Fishpool : Head of Geography

7 September 2012

Dear parents

## Geography Fieldwork in the Sixth Form

I should begin by congratulating your sons on some excellent GCSE results in geography this year. Many of them have placed themselves in a strong position for their sixth form studies.

Fieldwork is an integral part of any sixth form geography course and I thought I should write to you outlining our fieldwork programme for the next two years. Whilst there is no requirement to complete a project in the sixth form we do need to introduce fieldwork techniques and offer first-hand experiences in the field which will be tested in both the AS and A2 examinations.

To that end we are proposing to run a day trip to Christchurch Bay in Dorset on Tuesday 25 September. The day is designed to give an overview of coastal processes and management issues in the area. The trip will depart at 9.00 am and return, traffic dependent, at approximately 7.00pm. The cost of the trip will be £15.00 to cover the cost of the coach for the day. There are no additional costs involved. A packed lunch will be provided, but your son may well want to purchase additional supplies during the day. I would be grateful if you could complete the attached Parental Consent form to me, via your son, by Tuesday 18 September.

During August 2013 we intend to repeat the highly successful field trip to India that we ran this year on the theme of Globalisation & Inequality – a major topic in the A2 course. There is currently a brief description and some photographs of the trip which took place this August on the school website. Please take a look and discuss it with your son in order to ascertain whether or not he might like to join the proposed trip next year.

Likely itinerary would include:

Fly to Delhi: visit Guragaon (a modern cyber city outside Delhi, a visit to an OA of the school and his experience of setting up successful business ventures in India, a top public school to meet Indian sixth form students who are the industrialists of tomorrow - quite a sobering experience for our sixth formers this year! Other major sites in Delhi would be visited including the Parliament area, and comparisons are made between new and old Delhi. The tour will also visit Agra and the Taj Mahal, Jaipur and the Amber Palace and other locations which vividly illustrate contrasting levels of development within these areas. An internal flight to Mumbai is included so as to spend some time in Daharavi slum – famous for the setting of the film *Slumdog Millionaire* where a visit to a school and local workshops will be arranged. Elephanta Caves and the Gateway to India will also be visited before we return to the UK.

I cannot be specific about the cost for next year but this 10 day trip is likely to cost in the region of £1400 - £1500 inclusive of all travel, accommodation, meals and entrance fees, and to take place in late August. The dates this year were 17.08.12 - 27.08.12. In order for me to assess the level of interest there might be in repeating this trip, please send me an email if you are interested – there is certainly no commitment at this stage. Final costs are likely to be determined by the size of the party.

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During the upper sixth we also organize a two day residential field course to Studland Bay in Dorset. This allows us to complete some detailed fieldwork involving data collection and analysis in preparation for the A2 unit of geographical skills. Upper sixth formers will be expected to attend. The cost of this trip will be in the region of £75.

Finally, by virtue of studying A level geography at Abingdon your son becomes an affiliated member of the Geography Association. He has been given a programme of lectures that take place in Oxford at St Edward's School, which I strongly urge him to attend to widen his appreciation of the subject. These lectures usually take place on a Tuesday at 5.00 pm. Ask to see the programme of events he should have!

Please would you complete and return the Parental Consent form for the Christchurch Bay field trip as soon as possible. Perhaps consider the India field trip next summer. If you have any questions concerning any of the fieldwork I have outlined please do not hesitate in contacting me - e-mail is usually the best method. I look forward to meeting some of you at the parents' evening later this term.

Yours sincerely,

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