



From Head of Geography: Mr Ian Fishpool

11 September 2015

Dear Parents

Re: Geography Fieldwork in the Sixth Form

Perhaps I should begin by congratulating your sons on some excellent iGCSE results in their 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 the following programme of fieldwork visits.

On Monday 28 September an all day visit to Christchurch Bay in Dorset will take place to examine coastal processes and management issues. The paperwork for this field trip enclosed in this mailing from the school. For family management arrangements, there is a chance that this trip will return after the school buses have departed from school, so alternative travel arrangements may need to be made to get your son home on this day.

Next summer (2016) the department will arrange a field trip to India: our 5th trip to India. The aim of the trip is to broaden the awareness of our students. This trip links directly to part of the Global Issues paper, part of the A2 specification: Globalisation, Development and Inequalities. The trip is likely to be 10 days in length and take place in the second half of August. Again, I intend publishing details about this trip over the next week or so.

Looking ahead to the Michaelmas term of the upper sixth (October 2016) we run an overnight field trip to Studland Bay in Dorset. This is when we complete some detailed fieldwork involving data collection and analysis in preparation for the A2 unit of geographical skills. Upper sixth geographers will be expected to attend.

As usual we intend taking out a school group subscription for the *Geography Review* magazine that is written specifically for A level geography students. This magazine features specifically written case studies, advice from examiners and additional online support that is invaluable for any sixth form student. By taking a group subscription the cost is only **£12.50** for the year per student for the 4 issues: an individual subscription is considerably more. We hope that your son will want to take advantage of this extra resource. This will be charged on the end of term bill. If you do not wish your son to receive this quarterly magazine can you please email me at school as soon as possible.

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

In addition, the Abingdon Geography Department is a member of the local branch of the Geographical Association. I enclose their programme for the next academic year and I hope that your son will want to attend some of the lectures advertised. As a department, we will be encouraging your sons to attend lectures: most of the lectures take place in Oxford after school. There is no doubt that attending extra-curricular events, such as these, can help enhance the personal statement section of the UCAS form. Our own geography society, under the guidance of Mr Ghosh and members of the Upper Sixth also arranges lectures that take place at school.

I hope that you can see that there will be a number of valuable opportunities for your son over the next few terms that will be both enjoyable and beneficial to their geography. I look forward to meeting some of you at the parents' evening later this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Fishpool', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Ian Fishpool
The Senior Teacher & Head of Geography
ian.fishpool@abingdon.org.uk