



From: Will Stockdale, Head of Geography

Friday 1 October 2021

Geography A-level - independent investigation timeline

Dear Parents

As students enter the Upper Sixth programme of study for Geography, they will undertake an independent investigation (often referred to as the NEA / non-examined assessment). This comprises an independent piece of research to be conducted during the Michaelmas 2021 and start of Lent 2022 terms.

As you know, students have been on two field trips to Wytham Woods and Birmingham, to introduce them to some of the field skills and techniques they might consider employing in their own projects. The Geography Department put these in place despite the exam board's guidance that there was no formal requirement for any teacher led training days this year. (In a normal, non-covid impacted year, the department has to sign off with the exam board that these days have run and that students attended).

The department has also developed a website to guide students through the process of formulating an idea to finalising a project, in the hope that it collates the wealth of information available from multiple sources into a navigable format. Students will continue to receive dedicated lesson time every week from one of their classroom teachers, prep time throughout the term for half of their geography allocation to use for NEA work, and the option to attend drop-in clinics each week for additional support.

As you can see, the department is offering a range of support to students to assist them in their independent investigation. A full timeline has been shared with students (selected highlights below) and we would ask that you lend you support in this process also by helping students to remain on track. The key first stage, is that in October half term, there will be an element of individual fieldwork required, to allow sufficient time to collect data to analyse.

- Tuesday 21 September 2021 - Physical fieldwork skills day
- Friday 1 October - Human fieldwork skills day
- Friday 29 October - Data collected over half term
- Wednesday 5 January 2022 - First full draft submitted
- Friday 4 February - Final project submitted

I hope that this information is clear and should you have any further questions, please do discuss this with your child's Geography teacher at parents evening, or contact Will Stockdale, Head of Geography.

Yours sincerely

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