



Wednesday 21 June 2023

### **Geography A-level - independent investigation timeline**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 2023 and start of Lent 2024 terms.

As you know, students have been on a residential field trip, to introduce them to some of the field skills and techniques they might consider employing in their own projects. 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 and prep time throughout the term for half of their geography allocation to use for NEA work. The website can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/abingdon.org.uk/geog-nea-2021-22/home>

As you can see, the department is offering a range of support to students to assist them in their independent investigation. A full timeline will be shared with students (selected highlights below) and we would ask that you lend your support in this process by helping students to remain on track. The most notable phase of the project will be the October half term, where pupils will be required to collect their project data.

- **Friday 8 September** - Title developed, planning sheet filled in and handed in to teacher
- **Friday 13 October** - Methodology (section 2) completed
- **Friday 4 November** - Data should be collected over half term
- **Friday 15 December** - Conclusions and evaluations drafted
- **Tuesday 9 January 2024** - First full draft submitted - this is the first day back after Christmas

Over the summer pupils are expected to develop a title and complete a detailed planning form which they have already been sent, as well as begin research into their area of study. It is crucial that they do this as the quality of this plan will be one piece of evidence used to inform predicted grades.

Yours sincerely

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