

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



30th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 12 Independent Enquiry Field Work 19th – 22nd July 2021

Trip Leaders: Ms Fisher/Mr Hughes

A key component of the Geography A Level course is a unit entitled 'Independent Investigation' where all students must undertake a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork. This makes up **20% of the A Level course**. This year's fieldwork will involve a residential visit between 19th and 22nd July. During the visit the students will be given the opportunity to investigate rebranding in Liverpool and Chester, hydrology in Llanwrst and coastal processes in both Llanfairfechan and Conwy.

We will be staying at the Swallow Falls Hotel Complex & Betws Y Coed Youth Hostel in North Wales (www.yha.org). We have used these centres for several years and they offer all that we require for a successful and comfortable stay.

We will also have a dedicated coach and driver for the whole trip.

The total cost of the trip is likely to be £240.00 (to be finalised in June 2021). This will include:

- 3 nights full board accommodation (not including day one lunch in Liverpool)
- All transportation during the trip
- All fieldwork equipment

The cost per student for transport will be approximately £98.00 during the four days.

The law does not allow us to make a charge for these, though we may ask for voluntary contributions. No student may be excluded from the activity because of a parent or carer's unwillingness or inability to make a financial contribution. However, unless the voluntary contributions cover the cost of the activity, it cannot go ahead. The cost of the residential element is approximately £142.00. The law allows us to pass on this cost in full.

In summary, a deposit of **£50.00** is required by **28th May**, with the balance due by **28th June**. Deposits can be made via ParentPay*. Unfortunately, all deposits are non-refundable due to booking commitments.

As part of A Level Geography all students will undertake a coursework component: Independent Investigation. This comprises of a written report of 3000-4000 words. It is worth 20% of the overall A Level qualification and is marked out of 70. The Independent Investigation is internally assessed and externally moderated. The Independent Investigation is a unique opportunity for the students to apply their geographical knowledge and understanding to the context of a real world location. They will develop their skills of data collection, analysis and evaluation. For those applying to study geography at university, it also provides a tangible experience of their own geographical endeavour which could also be discussed within their UCAS personal statement. Ultimately, it will help better prepare the students for the transition to undergraduate study, regardless of the subject they choose.

To ensure your child's success the QEGS' Geography department would like to invite you and your child to the '**A Level Independent Investigations Information Evening**' on **Thursday 20th May, 6.00pm – 7.00pm**. **This will be an online Teams meeting, that will be set up using your child's school email account.** The evening will cover the following:-

- What is the Independent Investigation?
- What does it mean to be independent?
- What will happen on the fieldtrip?

- What your child needs to bring on the fieldtrip?
- How can you support your child?
- What support your child will receive from the Geography department?
- Guidance on feedback from the teacher.
- An opportunity for questions.

Whilst the Independent Investigation is an exciting part of the new A Level specification, it will require hard work and independence throughout to complete it successfully both at home and at school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you have any questions or queries about this trip.

Yours faithfully

Ms K Fisher

Teacher of Geography

Fisher@qegs.email