

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 12 Independent Enquiry Field Work – 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Trip Leader – Miss Edwards

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 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 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.

When organising the fieldtrip, we have sought to keep costs as reasonable as possible whilst still allowing our students to have the opportunity to have a residential experience. We will be staying at the YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass Youth Hostel in North Wales ([www.yha.org](http://www.yha.org)). We have used these centres for several years and they offer all that we require for a successful and comfortable stay. During our stay to lower costs we have opted for the self-catering option, this has reduced the overall cost by £45 per student, the hostel has excellent self-catering facilities, we know that this will add to the fun of the experience. We have several locations to visit over the four days to meet the requirements of fieldwork, we have been able to secure a minibus, this cost is higher than previous years due to the increased cost of fuel but compared to the option of public transport it is the most affordable option. The total cost of the trip is £326, however, **to keep costs down we have secured an award of £27 for each student from the Woodroffe Benton Fund. This means the cost is reduced to £299.**

**The total cost of the trip is likely to be £299.00 (to be finalised in May 2023).** This will include:

- 3 nights self-catered (we will organise group meal plans with students in advance to help student plan their shop and budget. We have planned to do a supermarket trip on day 1.
- All transportation during the trip
- All fieldwork equipment

The cost per student for transport will be approximately £140.00 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 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 £155.00. The law allows us to pass on this cost in full. **If you need support with covering the cost of the trip please get in touch with Miss Edwards.**

In summary, a **deposit of £50.00 is required by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, with the balance due by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** Deposits to 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 study.

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 8<sup>th</sup> June, 6.00pm – 6.30 pm**. **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 you child needs to bring on the fieldtrip.
- How can your 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.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Miss Edwards on [Edwards@qegs.email](mailto:Edwards@qegs.email).

Yours faithfully,

Miss K Edwards  
**Curriculum Leader of Geography**

*\*by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay to confirm the payment detailed above, you are also confirming that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child. Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.*