

14th September 2011.

Dear Parent/Guardian

**GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
YEAR 12 FIELDWORK TRIP TO CORNWALL
Saturday, 24th March to Thursday, 29th March 2012**



Your son/daughter is studying the AQA AS level Geography syllabus which, as mentioned in the sixth form brochure, has a fieldwork component. It is necessary for pupils to have undertaken fieldwork as the module 2 exam is a skills and fieldwork paper, whereby questions are asked about fieldwork techniques and data gathering. This module constitutes 20% of the entire A-level (40% of the A1 mark).

To facilitate this, the Geography Department runs a six day field course in Cornwall during the last week of the Easter term. I must stress that attendance on this course is voluntary as we have to make a charge. The advantages of visiting Cornwall are that the area lends itself to the study of Physical Geography more so than Hertfordshire, and the pupils will be taught techniques by their own teachers who have experience of the area, and who know exactly the requirements of the fieldwork in relation to the syllabus. Other work is also undertaken which complements the programmes of study in the fieldwork and assessment module in the A2 course.

This year we will be staying in the Chy-an-Albany Hotel, St Ives. We will leave school by minibus early on the Saturday morning. The hotel provides cooked breakfasts, packed lunches and hot evening meals. There will be four teachers accompanying the pupils. The fieldwork each day lasts from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, followed in the evening by seminars and data collation sessions.

The cost of the trip is £360, comprising accommodation, food, transport, staffing cover and insurance. There may be some reimbursement of part of the cost depending on fuel prices and mini bus hire discount. I appreciate that this is a lot of money but it does represent good value and the cost has been pared down to the bare minimum. Students who wish to take part in the visit need to return the attached reply slip, together with **an initial deposit of £60** (cheque payable to "St George's School"), to the School Finance Office by **Friday, 7th October 2011**. Payments can be made in cash, by cheque made payable to "St George's School", boarders' disbursement or via "ParentPay". Our preferred method of payment is the online "ParentPay" system. If you do not have your log in details and/or have not used this system before, please contact the School Finance Office who will be happy to help you. They can be reached on 01582 765477 or via e-mail at finance@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. Please note that there will then be three further instalments of £100 each payable on 6th January 2012, 1st February 2012 and 1st March 2012.

Some students are entitled to have the cost of their board and lodging covered. A student qualifies if they are in receipt of free school meals, and it is by reference to our school record of who receives free school meals that we would endorse that a student would qualify for this residential visit subsidy. Such a student might still face some costs on a residential visit e.g. entry costs of site visits. As trip leader I can clarify this, and any reduced deposit payable in these circumstances. Also if a family has financial hardship then it may be possible to seek some money towards the cost of the trip from the 'Harpenden Trust' which is a local charity. Parents would need to contact them directly.

Any further information about the trip will be divulged to the pupils in due course. If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me, but more specific information will be posted next term including the exact arrangements for travel, accommodation and an itinerary of the work. In deference to the students' status as young adults we will allow the pupils to partake in one alcoholic beverage during the evening meal if they so desire. Please indicate if you do not wish your son/daughter to partake in this arrangement, otherwise I will assume that you are happy with this. Also I am obliged to say that in the unlikely scenario of a student being involved in serious misconduct between now and the trip, they may forfeit their place.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Robertson
Geography Teacher

REPLY SLIP

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Pupil's name.....

Tutor..... House

I give permission for my son/daughter* to take part in the above Geography trip. I understand that should my child be involved in any serious misconduct between now and the trip, my child may forfeit their place and lose any monies already paid.

I give/ do not give* my permission for my son/daughter to partake in the occasional glass of wine or beer.

**Please delete as applicable.*

Please tick as appropriate:

- I have enclosed the deposit of £60 (cheque payable to "St George's School").
- I would like to pay the deposit via boarders' disbursement.
- I have paid the deposit by "ParentPay".

and

- I will pay the 3 further instalments of £100 each on 6th January 2012, 1st February 2012 and 1st March 2012 (cheques payable to "St George's School").
- I would like to pay the 3 further instalments of £100 each on 6th January 2012, 1st February 2012 and 1st March 2012 via boarders' disbursement.
- I will pay the 3 further instalments of £100 each on 6th January 2012, 1st February 2012 and 1st March 2012 by "ParentPay".

Signed:..... (parent/guardian)

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL FINANCE OFFICE BY Friday, 7th October, 2011.