



KV05AT

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year (10) 11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork 'Coast to Coast' Wednesday 11- Friday 13 September 2024

As part of the three-year GCSE Geography course, field trips are arranged to enable your child/ward to be fully prepared for the GCSE examination. I am pleased to inform you that we have managed to book our classic Northern England three-day fieldtrip. It is particularly pleasing because we will visit two wonderful and popular hostels that we have used before. The trip will last three days, starting in the Lake District, Cumbria on day one looking at flood prevention techniques in Cockermouth and tourism in Grasmere. On day two we move onto the top of the Pennines into County Durham to follow the course of the River Tees from source to the sea stopping off at High Force waterfall, Barnard Castle and Yarm on route. The third day will give a wonderful set of opportunities to study the coastal landscape of the fast-eroding Holderness coast in Yorkshire. Departing from there at 1430 we would hope to be back at school by 1900, but as it is a Friday it is difficult to predict the return time via the M62 with any certainty.

All the locations visited are those studied in class, with field activities being designed to assist your child/ward in their knowledge and understanding in Paper 1 and prepare them for the Paper 3 skills exam. There is a cost element involved in this trip to cover the coaches and **full board** overnight stay in two stunning YHA Youth Hostels – Ambleside in Cumbria and Bogglehole in Yorkshire. This will include dinner each evening, bed, breakfast and a good, packed lunch the following day. The cost of the trip will be £166 (which is only a £26 increase on the 2021 trip). We always seek to keep the cost of fieldwork as low as possible and feel that this does offer good value for money.

There is a suggested payment plan being set up by our school finance team with payments to be made via Scopay as follows, though you can also pay the full amount of £166 straight away if you prefer:

£30 First deposit by 30th Jan

£50 Second deposit by 30th April

Final balance of £86 by 30th June

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Sensible** fieldwork/outdoor clothing (NO JEANS). Jeans can only be worn once we arrive at the hostel in the evenings. Layers of clothing will be best.
2. **Set of full waterproofs*** – jacket and ideally waterproof trousers if you have them.
3. A good set of trainers ideally walking boots*, with good grips.
4. A good, packed lunch for first day (if your child/ward is entitled to free school meals a 'grab-bag' can be ordered the day before the trip from the canteen for collection from 8am on the day. 'Grab-bags' may also be ordered to purchase). Packed lunches are included for the Thursday and Friday.
5. See kit list for other items.

*We do carry have some spare (usually fairly new) waterproof and/or boots you can borrow.

The itinerary is as follows:

DAY 1. Wednesday 11 September 2024 - Lake District including Cockermouth and Lake Windermere

Arrive in school at **normal time** and leave suitcases in the dining room as advised. Registration by the geography staff will be in the **Dining Room**, kits checked, and then students will be briefed on the activities to be undertaken.

We will leave school around 0845 for the Lake District National Park and Ambleside Youth hostel. A toilet stop is made at Charnock Richard Services on the M6. On reaching Cockermouth students will be shown around the town to see the issues associated with flooding that Cockermouth has had to contend with. This is a key case study for the examination – for both the rivers and also the weather hazards unit. They will then complete a task in their prearranged groups often away from a teacher (although students will know where teachers are located as well as having the Geography Department's emergency phone number). **No student can be alone**. Staff will be located at specific locations throughout the town which is quite small. Students will be made well aware of these arrangements before we leave school.

The second stop is at the beautiful village of Grasmere where we will study the impacts of literary tourism on this village. Data will be collected in groups again particularly by carrying interviews and questionnaires with member of the public. After arrival at Ambleside Youth Hostel, there will be a chance to relax before dinner. Students will be able to select their room groups ranging from four up to eight before the trip. There may be time for students to walk (with staff) up to the village centre and visit the shops.

DAY 2. Thursday 12 September 2024 - Upper Teesdale and the valley of the River Tees

Up early for breakfast, (full cooked English with vegetarian/ vegan/ halal etc. also catered for) and after picking up the included packed lunch, we depart around 0800. It is then on to the Pennines to discover the River Tees, as per the textbook, from its source to the sea. The emphasis on this day is to follow the route taken by sixth former **Elliot Brown** in the Channel 4 educational TV programme about rivers.

We will drive over the Pennines to Alston (about 1.5 hours) and on to the moors of Teesdale between Cumbria and County Durham. Here we measure the River Tees (our main physical geography case study for Paper 3) in its upper course, undertaking a detailed study of the river and its flow. The location is next to the coach stopping point, allowing good access to the equipment we will use. Students may wish to put on **wellies** for this section. These boots can be kept on the bus for the remainder of the trip. Please ensure a name is written inside the boots. Good waterproofs, tested in your shower at home, are essential for this day again because the weather can be as wild as the location. This will always be a memorable experience!

Having collected data at this location (1hr 30 mins), it is on down through beautiful Teesdale to High Force waterfall - one of the largest in the UK and again studied as a case study in class. 40 minutes here will allow students to view this wonderful classic feature within its near vertical gorge and see the textbook come alive. Lunch is in the adjacent picnic site (packed lunch from youth hostel is included). We then travel on through Teesdale, to note how the river changes as it passes through Barnard Castle, Yarm (undertaking a mapping exercise of flood protection measures), finishing at Middlesbrough and its barrage across the river close to the mouth of the Tees. From here we cross the North Yorks Moors National Park to get the amazing youth hostel at Bogglehole. Located in its own cove right on the coast with a pirate theme throughout this hostel is usually booked very quickly by families so we are very happy to exclusive use of the hostel for one night. There is a short walk from the car park, so it would be useful to ensure your **small** overnight case has **wheels** – alternatively a rucksack will suffice. You can look up both hostels on the YHA website.

DAY 3. Friday 13 September 2024 - East Coast of England, close to Bridlington

After breakfast and with the included packed lunch, we drive south to Flamborough Head to study the effects of coastal erosion with stacks and arches (2 hours). Time to sample possibly the best ice cream in the

country at Happy Moos it is then on to the Holderness coast – one of the fastest eroding coastlines in the UK and the villages of Hornsea and Mappleton (all case studies in our GCSE). Again, the textbook comes alive as the focus of the teaching considers managing coastlines and the impact of the fast cliff erosion on these village communities. These are classic and famous GCSE geography locations. Leaving Mappleton at around 1400 we will return to school, via the length of the M62 motorway (from just north of Hull). We have to make a 45-minute driver stop at a services, which has a Burger King/KFC/Subway etc... so a small amount of spending money would be very useful to get food as this is a very long day travelling the width of England. Return to school around 1900 (this is approximate – students will phone home on route).

Detailed risk assessments have been carried out for each location – copies of these will be placed on iPupil SharePoint (see the icon with the wellies on) or made available to parents/carers on request.

YHA properties have recently undergone extensive renovations and are therefore very popular now. We do struggle to get hostels big enough to cater for the number studying Geography, so we are very pleased these dates have become available.

The school has a blanket School Journey Insurance policy in place to provide appropriate cancellation, curtailment, medical and personal possessions cover. This policy also carries limited personal accident insurance cover for pupils. As the school will not be liable for any injury arising from incidents beyond our direct control, parents may wish to consider purchasing their own personal accident cover to enhance the limited protection of this policy. **Please understand that it is not possible to arrange refunds for students who miss the trip, even if this is due to ill health. The Finance Office will be able to request a claim on the school journey insurance providing a doctor's note, and/or evidence supporting a claim, are provided. The final decision lies with the insurance company** (although they have been very good when evidence has been provided).

The online payment system Scopay is now open for you to pay the deposit, first instalment or total amount if you prefer. **If this amount causes concern, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Vane or Mr Clarke (Head teacher), in confidence.** Students in receipt of free school meals and/or pupil premium will be able to receive support with cost of this trip.

A medical form for completion and kit list will be provided nearer the time during the summer term of 2024.

I am sure that in line with previous fieldwork run by the Geography Department, your child/ward will find this fieldwork both informative and a rewarding experience for their examinations in Geography. We hope they will also find the whole experience fun and memorable as well – whatever the weather!

Yours sincerely

K Vane

**Mr K R Vane
Head of Geography and Geology**

Please see next page for the parental risk assessment and the kit list.

RISK ASSESSMENT & GENERAL GUIDANCE – GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP 2024

This assessment has been undertaken with reference to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 as well as numerous outdoor visits governance and CoPs. Within the said regulations, there will be 8 members of staff accompanying this trip and they shall act as the “competent person” so defined. Mr Vane, group leader, and other Geography teachers all have extensive knowledge of working on fieldtrips and of their associated hazards. Other staff members on the trip have all been picked because of their ability to contribute to the successful running of the trip – most have been on Geography trips before. Several safety assessment trips to the locality have been undertaken prior to the visit.

WEATHER

The weather in such an upland place as the Pennines at Teesdale can never be relied upon and therefore all students attending must bring with them suitable outdoor clothing. **This must include full waterproofs and ideally proper walking boots.** Failing this, trainers with good grips can be worn. We **will** work in rain, providing it be deemed safe to do so. The weather in Autumn can be variable from extreme wet and therefore cold, to warm and sunny with a risk of sun stroke. Students are advised to have extra warm clothing with them in their day bag together with their own sun cream and hand sanitiser. Students are advised that river work is cold at whatever time of year it is undertaken. The depth of water is always assessed before any student is given permission to access it. Depths in this location are unlikely to be above boot height. A few spare new waterproofs and walking boots are available to borrow if you are not able to provide your own – please request in good time.

TERRAIN

Walks and scrambles may involve brief non-strenuous walking for short periods but this should not be beyond any group member. Students must exercise extreme care when in upland environments and on coastal paths next to cliffs. They must always follow the very clear safety instructions given from time to time. **There is not a great deal of walking on this trip.**

ENVIRONMENTAL and WATER HAZARDS

Wirral LEA does not permit the undertaking of swimming in any lake, river or the sea without the presence of a certificated lifeguard. **Swimming will not be permitted on this trip.** Sometimes students will enter a river, maybe with wellies or with old trainers to undertake measurements of the river. It is most unlikely that the river will be above knee height. This is checked prior to all work being undertaken. Care must be taken to ensure hand sanitizer is used after undertaking river work, to avoid the possible contamination from Weills disease, a nasty (but very rare) disease caused by rat urine in stagnant water. When working on the beach, students must ensure they are aware of the instructions given by staff. Care should be taken against insect bites and ticks near rivers. Advice and repellents will be offered to students if the weather requires this.

TRANSPORT & ROAD SAFETY

Travel will be in two coaches Please note that the school carries public liability insurance. All vehicles are checked for roadworthiness, and all are covered fully in terms of insurance. We have used the coach company many times before. Students **must take great care when crossing roads** - whether it is in the countryside or the towns and villages, we will be visiting. This is particularly the case in Ambleside and York.

FIRST AID

Members of staff will carry full first aid kits while out in the field. Mr Vane, Miss McVey and Mr Knight are qualified first aiders.

HOSTEL AND FREE TIME

Students will be expected to abide by the rules of the YHA whilst in the hostels. **The 10.30pm lights out and silence rule must be strictly observed in fairness to other guests.** Students will be expected to respect the other people using the hostel. Any student who deliberately causes a member of staff to be up during the night, without good reason, may be asked to call their parents/carers to come and collect them straight away from the hostel. The nature of the terrain demands that both staff and students can work safely – tiredness can impair that safety and so we will seek to ensure that everyone gets a good night's sleep. Students will not be permitted to walk, or sit, around the hostels in night attire, nor will they be permitted to enter the room of any other resident in the hostel who is not part of the school group. Again, a breach of this rule will result in parents/carers being asked to come and collect their child/ward, even in the middle of the night.

The staff in the hostel are friendly and helpful. There is a small shop in each hostel for the purchase of snacks and spare toiletries. All students are reminded of the need to act sensibly and to have regard for their own safety especially when enjoying free time. They should never go out walking alone.

Mr K R Vane
Head of Geography kvane@wkg.net

1998, Revised 3/99 5/99, 3rd Rev 5/2000. 4th rev 8/00, 5th rev 6/01, Further changes 2/02; 6th rev:09/02.
West Kirby revision 09.03, second revision 2017 / 2018 / 2019/2021/ 2023 revision.

KIT LIST FOR GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK – GCSE RESIDENTIAL

This list is simply designed to pinpoint those things that you might forget.

ESSENTIALS

- **Walking boots** – ideal item. Check, by wearing them now, that they do not rub your feet.
- **Waterproof mac** – essential item. Imagine the heaviest rainstorm you can and you are in a place with no shelter and a cold wind for two hours. Now will your mac do? Try it out in the shower now
- Trainers for around the hostel.
- Warm clothing - usual outdoor clothing – a hat and gloves.
- Rubber gloves (old 'marigolds') for river work
- Towel
- Nightclothes / PJs. You are not allowed to walk around the hostel in night attire.
- Shampoo / shower gel / toothpaste / tooth brush

CLOTHING

- **Waterproof trousers**
- **Fleece** – if you have one.
- A hat
- **Good socks for your boots** - essential. Make sure you have more than one pair
- Shorts may be useful – let us at least hope it is sunny!
- Trousers - **do not wear jeans outside**. I suggest tracksuit bottoms or combat trousers in cotton. Outdoor walking trousers are excellent if you have them.
- **Wellies**, if available, will be useful for the river measuring. An old pair of trainers would also be suitable.

MEDICAL

- Blister kit – please bring your own.
- All medication you normally require. Please pass to Mr Vane your own painkillers for headaches and/or period pains. **It would be helpful if you write out a list of the pills you have with you. Put a star next to those you are taking at this time. This is treated as confidential.**
- A few plasters, maybe with a small personal first aid kit (though Mr Vane and other first aiders will carry first aid materials)
- **Insect repellent e.g. Jungle formula**. Check you are not allergic to it. Flies love areas of water.
- Sun tan lotion - high factor because you are out all day and because we are always optimistic about the weather!
- After-sun lotion - because we are really positive thinkers, and it will be sunny.

EQUIPMENT

- A **waterproof rucksack** for daily use
- **An A5 hard backed notebook** – essential item. Spiral ones fall apart when wet (£1.50 from Tesco's etc)
- Large **see through** plastic bags to enable you to make notes in the rain. Geographers work in the rain!!
- Pens (e.g. biro) and pencils, including a few colours.
- A ruler for measuring fluvial and beach deposits.
- A camera or at least have space on your phone.
- Phone charger
- A clip board if you have one.
- At least two towels – one small one for wiping your feet while outside.
- Snacks - although the hostel shop does sell some. The food in YHA hostels is very good.
- A map case – if you have one.
- A small torch.
- Your own pillowcase might be useful.
- You will **not** require a sleeping bag.
- A small padlock to lock your case.

Hope this helps.

Mr K R Vane
Head of Geography