29/03/19

**A Level Biology Field Trip – 3rd June 2019**

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted that your son / daughter has decided to attend the A Level Biology field trip.

This field trip is related to the ‘Populations and Environment’ topic which students will begin to study near the end of Year 12. Although the course is not strictly essential, it will provide students with the opportunity to carry out a variety of practical techniques which they must have knowledge of, and see first-hand a succession through an ecosystem, which is part of the specification for this unit. Pupils will also gain useful experience and will be taught transferrable skills which will look good on a UCAS application or a CV.

This is a one day trip on the **3rd June 2019**. We will leave school at 8am and we will return at approximately 8pm of the same day. The fieldwork will take place in the Lake District in Cumbria.

**I am suggesting a voluntary contribution of £47 to be made from all students that have chosen to attend the field trip by Thursday 18th April.**

This will help to cover the cost of the trip which includes transport by coach to each field site, as well as all specialist tuition and equipment hire. If we don’t receive sufficient voluntary contributions then the trip will not be able to go ahead. The voluntary contribution of £47 can be paid via **Parent Pay** (www.parentpay.com). If you require any further information or assistance please contact the Finance Office on 01606 706011. If this deadline causes you any concern please contact me via the school office or via email.

Outlined below are brief details of the field trip:

**Departure: 8am** **Monday 3rd June** from St Nicholas High School.

Pupils will need to make sure they are in the common room before 8am.

We will travel straight to Sandscale Haws National Nature Reserve. Students will look at the adaptations of drought tolerant plants and learn identification techniques. They will then conduct transects across the dunes to collect both biotic and abiotic data to show the succession and zonation of plants as we move inland.

After lunch we will complete a freshwater study in the river Eea in Cartmel. After an introduction to species recognition and a discussion on the range of abiotic factors, students will carry out surveying techniques to collect river organisms. They will then identify the collected organisms and use a biotic index to estimate the level of pollution in the river. They will learn about the adaptations of these organisms to living in fast flowing water. Students will also carry out chemical tests on the water.

**Arrival back at school:** **Approximately** **8pm**. Pupils will be able to use their mobile phones on the coach to arrange collection when we know a more accurate arrival time. We will depart the second field site at 5pm. Our arrival time will be largely dependent on the traffic conditions on the day. We will stop at the motorway services to enable students to change into dry/clean clothes if needed. There will be an opportunity to purchase food so students will need some money with them if they wish to do this. If not they may wish to bring food to eat for dinner.

Students are permitted to bring a mobile telephone on this trip. However, under no circumstances are students allowed to record images of members of staff. Students will be given specific guidelines as to the use of mobile phones at the start of the trip. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the phone being confiscated and a sanction issued. St Nicholas Catholic High School will take no responsibility for the safety or security of the mobile phone on any school trip.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the highest standards of behaviour are expected as always both in school and on the trip. Consequently, following the advice of Key Stage Leaders, it has been agreed that any student who is excluded between now and the trip will not be able to take part. Your support will be required to ensure that your son / daughter understands these expectations.

The field centre that will be running the course is Castle Head Field Centre, Grange over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6QT. In case of an emergency you can contact them on 015395 38120 and07799 370637. We will not be spending any time at the field centre itself.

**We will be outside all day no matter what the weather.** Please check the local weather forecast before packing as given that it is July in the UK, on an exposed sand dune, it may be necessary to bring a hat and scarf or a sunhat, sun cream and extra water!

Please note students must bring appropriate clothing and footwear to enable them to participate in field activities. For obvious health and safety reasons, any student who does not bring appropriate clothing or footwear will not be allowed to participate fully.

**What you need to bring:**

* A packed lunch, snacks and plenty of drink. **There will not be anywhere to buy food or drink** until we stop at a service station on the way home.
* Money in case you want to buy some dinner from the service station on the way home.
* Warm comfortable clothing (jeans are not good for outdoor work as they don’t dry quickly).
* Spare set of clothes to change into after fieldwork if you get soaking wet!
* Full set of waterproofs – jacket and over trousers
* **All pupils must have a pair of Wellington boots.** It is possible to borrow a pair from the field centre. Please let me know in advance if this is required.
* Walking boots or sturdy outdoor shoes.
* Small rucksack to carry your daily kit.
* Warm coat, hat and gloves as necessary.
* Lip salve, sun cream / hat and insect repellent as necessary.
* Personal medication e.g. inhaler(s) if required.

If you would like me to handle any medication or if there are any medical conditions that you would like me to be aware of then please complete a blue medical form with all of the relevant details. If at any point there is a change in medical information after completing the form then please contact me via email with the updated information.

I am sure that with everyone’s cooperation the visit will be both successful and enjoyable. If you have any questions please contact me via email (t.brown@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk) or ring the school office.

Yours sincerely,

***Mr T Brown***

Biology Teacher