

May 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

Pilot NEA Data Collection Fieldwork Day – Friday 24 May

The A Level Geography specification requires the students to undertake a geographical enquiry. This is called the Non Examined Assessment and is worth 20% of their final A Level grade. The students are expected to produce a 3-4000 word report into an aspect of geography they find particularly interesting.

This enquiry is both a huge challenge and opportunity for the students. It is a challenge because they are expected to undertake the work with a great deal of independence, including formulating their own enquiry aims and hypotheses and being responsible for collecting their own primary data. This is going to be very demanding and we are expecting the students to spend approximately 50 hours on this work, both in lessons and at home involved in independent study.

The opportunity is for them to develop an in depth knowledge and understanding of an area of geography they are most interested in, that they have chosen for themselves. It is the culmination of all the enquiry-based learning we have tried to develop throughout KS3/KS4. It will also allow the students to build up a huge range of transferable and highly valued workplace skills.

I have included a number of attachments, which will help explain the nature of this piece of work including the requirements and the provisional deadlines. I hope that will allow you to support your son/daughter on this exciting task.

In preparation for this, we are going to provide the students with the opportunity to undertake a pilot study. This will allow the students to have a go at planning and executing their own primary data collection methods. They can then carry out some simple analysis of these data, which will allow them to evaluate the success of their methodology and plans for their NEA. Having done a pilot study, we believe they will be in a better position to plan and execute a more meaningful piece of fieldwork for their NEA.

The day will start at 9.15am in C206 to allow the students to make sure they have the correct equipment and are fully prepared. The students will then spend the rest of the day carrying out their planned fieldwork in various locations in Sheffield; the exact location will depend on their investigation title. The students, with help from the staff will have risk assessed their work and I would expect the students to have shared this information with you. The day will finish at approximately 3.15pm, in the Winter Gardens in the city centre where we will carry out a brief evaluation of the work and register the students before dismissing them.

Executive Headteacher: Roisin Paul

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During the day, students are expected to work in an organised and responsible way. They will need to be dressed appropriately for spending time outside; warm clothes, a waterproof coat, sun cream, sun hat and appropriate footwear. They will need to bring a camera to record the locations of their sample points, pens & pencils, a clip board & some paper to make notes on, a phone (in case of emergencies), a packed lunch (or money to buy a sandwich) and medications, as appropriate, like inhalers.

Students are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from town, so will need money for bus fares. As the students will be dispersed over quite a large area, depending upon their choice of investigation title the teaching staff will be travelling between groups of students monitoring their progress throughout the day. Given this remote supervision, it is especially important that the students conduct themselves in a mature way.

Please complete the attached parental consent and return to Mr. J. Hamshaw Thomas by Friday 17th May.

Yours sincerely

J Hamshaw-Thomas

Mr. J. Hamshaw Thomas
Subject Leader for Geography

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SILVERDALE SCHOOL - Pilot NEA Data Collection Fieldwork Day – Friday 24rd May

NAME: _____ FORM: _____

I give permission for my child to participate in the Geography Fieldtrip on Friday 24rd May. I understand the trip arrangements for the day and that they must make their own way home after the fieldwork has been completed.

Emergency Contact Name and number: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

Signed : _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN SLIPS TO MR HAMSHAW-THOMAS BY 17TH MAY