

13 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Wycoller Beck Geography Field Trip – 1st, 2nd, 3rd November 2023

The Geography department will be running the first of the two compulsory GCSE fieldwork trips on 1st, 2nd and 3rd November 2023.

Year 10 students have started the GCSE course, and now need to apply their River Landscapes unit to the practical element of the course and carry out a river study to test set hypotheses. This will take place along the Wycoller Beck, Wycoller.

The main aims of the visit are to support students in the study of a river landscape first-hand and allow each student to develop skills in measuring, observing and recording how river characteristics change along the long profile of a river. Students will set their own hypotheses, record their own results and then write the report in class which will support their Paper 3 GCSE examination whilst bolstering knowledge to support the River Landscape topic in Paper 1.

Students will be travelling with their teaching group, divided across two of the school minibuses. Pupils should **arrive to school no later than 8.30am** and meet in the Humanities foyer. If a pupil is late, they will unfortunately miss the essential fieldwork as we will not be able to transfer them to different date due to tight minibus numbers.

The trips will take place within the school day, leaving at 8.45am and returning by 3.10pm, in time for the school buses. At Priory, we believe in trying to maximise the learning experience of each pupil so the groups will be small in number, and each supported by teachers. Students will be working in groups of 4 or 5 on the day and will be allocated a minibus to travel on which cannot be changed once set as a risk assessment and registration will have been carried out. **Mr Metcalfe and Mrs Kursitis will inform the students which one of the three dates their classes will be going out on.**

The cost of the trip, including a GCSE Geography revision guide is £10. The trip is a compulsory part of the GCSE course and all students must attend if they are to complete the Geography GCSE course. Payment should be made online via SCOPay* no later than Friday, 20 October where you will also be required to provide parental consent. This replaces the need to complete a reply slip. Cash should not be brought into school.

Students will be outside all day and working in the river, carrying out measuring and investigative techniques and so will be a non-uniform day. Sensible clothing is advised for the activity and Mr Metcalfe and Mrs Kursitis will keep students informed via Teams and lessons of the weather forecast. Clothes that are advised are:

- Waterproof coat
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof footwear / walking shoes (please do not wear your best trainers)
- Rucksack to carry additional clothing / waterproof and lunch



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There are no shops or café outlets at Wycoller, so a packed lunch and a bottle of water are essential. Students should bring writing equipment. There are toilets on site.

If the weather or river conditions are poor or deemed not to be safe, then an alternative date will be offered. Students will be informed of this in lesson, or via Teams in the event of a trip cancellation on the eve of the study.

Prior to the trip, I must ask that you inform the school of any recent updates to emergency contacts and medical conditions we may not already be aware of. Please note asthma sufferers or pupils requiring medication must bring a spare inhaler/medication and hand the named/labelled items to Mr Metcalfe.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Metcalfe
Lead Teacher of Geography | Head of Humanities | Lead Practitioner for Digital Learning

*All parents have access to SCOPay, the school's online payment facility. If you need a reminder of your login, please email Mrs Cookson, Finance Officer, at j.cookson@priory.lancs.sch.uk.

Further information available at www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/internet-payments