

23 June 2023

### Re: GCSE Geography River Wyre Study – October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of the course, your child is required to participate in physical geography fieldwork study. To fulfil this requirement, we will be visiting the River Wyre. It is essential all GCSE geography students participate in this fieldwork. This trip is the second of two compulsory field visits required to complete the GCSE course, following the Salford Quays visit in July 2022.

#### Important Information

We will be taking pupils to conduct a river study which will be led by staff from Hothersall Lodge Outdoor Education Centre. Hothersall Lodge is run by Lancashire County Council. As part of the study pupils will be required to enter shallow water to collect a series of measurements including, for example, river velocity, width and river discharge. These activities will be closely supervised at all times.

Due to the nature of the activities, it is necessary to split the Year 11 geography GCSE cohort and run two trips as follows:

- **Tuesday 10 October:** Pupils in geography groups 11Y/Gg1 and 11Y/Gg2 (surnames Ainscough to Norcross) will attend on this day. We will return to school by 3.25 p.m.
- **Wednesday 11 October:** Pupils in geography groups 11Y/Gg2 (surnames Owen to Stansfield), 11Y/Gg3 and 11Z will attend on this day. We will return to school by 3.25 p.m.

Activities will be led by Hothersall Lodge staff and pupils will be supervised by St Michael's staff at all times.

#### Equipment

The following equipment is needed:

- Packed lunch including a drink (pupils who have a free school meal will receive a packed lunch if they book this in advance).
- Pens, pencils, a notebook and a large transparent bag to cover notes.
- A waterproof camera may be taken, although pupils can obtain images from school following the visit.
- A rucksack or similar bag, which can be carried over the shoulders, is useful.
- Suitable outdoor clothing should be worn (jogging bottoms rather than jeans) and a pair of waterproof trousers is useful. It is useful to bring old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.
- Gloves and a hat.
- **A waterproof coat and wellington boots are essential.**

#### Conduct

The need for sensible and mature behaviour at all times on the visit has been stressed to pupils. The school is often complimented on the behaviour of its pupils on educational visits and we clearly expect all pupils to help maintain the good reputation we have. All pupils are expected to work well together in groups, and must not work individually. It is imperative that pupils follow the instructions given by staff immediately,

both for their own safety and that of other pupils. Pupils are expected to remain seated and wear their seatbelts throughout the journey to and from the fieldwork sites.

### **Transport**

Pupils will travel by coach to and from the fieldwork sites.

### **Cost**

Having considered the total cost of the visit, we require a £25 contribution from each pupil to enable the visit to go ahead. This includes the cost of tuition from Hothersall Lodge and the transport to and from the field study sites. As you will appreciate, the health and safety of our pupils is our top priority and Hothersall Lodge are highly experienced in leading these types of visits which is why their service is essential.

If parents are concerned about payment, please contact me at the school to discuss the matter in confidence. Payment should be made via the School Gateway at [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) (If parents/carers require further information regarding payments please contact the School Office on 01257 264740).

Please could an instalment of £12.50 be made by **Friday 30 July** followed by a further instalment of £12.50 by **Friday 29 September**.

### **Medical Consent Form**

Please complete the consent form online as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 8 September**. I appreciate last year you completed a form for the Salford Quays trip, but this is a slightly more detailed form due to working near a river.

[MEDICAL CONSENT FORM please click here](#)

We regret that we will be unable to take pupils on the visit who have not returned the fully completed form. The forms must be completed promptly in order to complete the required risk assessments.

Should you wish to discuss the details of this visit further please do not hesitate to contact me in school. You can email me [admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk) or call me on the school's telephone number.

Yours sincerely

*P. Clark*

Mr P Clark  
Subject Leader for Geography