



July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **A Level Geography Residential Fieldwork**

Thank you for your patience regarding an update on your son/daughter's 4 day A Level Geography residential visit to Leeson House, Swanage. As you know, our visit was due to take place from 12 to 15 June 2020, but was postponed due to restrictions in travel and residentials because of Covid-19.

To update you, due to current restrictions on residential visits, we heard this week that the venue, Leeson House, have agreed to cancel the trip and provide a full refund. We are currently awaiting this refund and once we have received it our Finance team will reimburse you for any trip monies paid to-date.

You may have read in the press that Ofqual are currently carrying out a consultation on the 2021 exam series. We expect to hear the final decision on this by the beginning of September. What they are currently proposing is that the A Level Geography exams remain unchanged. Students would still be required to complete 4 days of fieldwork and to then go on to complete an NEA (non-exam assessment, worth 20% of their final grade). Please do be assured that if this is confirmed as the case we are currently working on a plan for our Geography team to deliver this fieldwork locally in the autumn term, which would not require a residential stay. This would then allow ample time for students to collect any additional data they need and complete their NEA. Earlier this term, we took the decision to start the Year 13 content with students to ensure that if the NEA was confirmed as still going ahead, students would have the same amount of school and home-learning time as previous years to complete their fieldwork and NEA (albeit at a different time of year).

I'm sure you will appreciate that this is an ever-changing picture and we are having to make decisions, often at short notice. Please be reassured that your child's safety and academic performance in their A Level is at the front of our minds and we will ensure that they have everything they need in order for them to complete this section of the course to a high standard.

If you have any queries relating to this please do contact me by email: [vlindop@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:vlindop@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Victoria Lindop  
Head of Geography